

THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 17, 1970, ARE BY NOW FAMILIAR TO MOST OMAHANS: A PHONE CALL TO THE POLICE, CARS RUSH TO A VACANT ADDRESS ON OHIO STREET, AN EXPLOSION, AND A COP GETS KILLED. LATER THERE WERE ARRESTS, INDICTMENTS, AND A PICTURE OF "BLACK MILITANTS" WANTONLY SLAUGHTERING UNSUSPECTING OFFICERS OF THE LAW.

IT WAS NOT AN UNCOMMON PICTURE IN USA-1970, NOT UNCOMMON THE MIDWEST, FOR EVEN IN [REDACTED] 1970 SAW A TOTAL OF SIX BOMBINGS IN OMAHA AND COUNCIL BLUFFS. BUT UNREPORTED IN THE RUSH OF EVENTS WERE A NUMBER OF INTERESTING [REDACTED] ANGLES, THAT -- WHILE THEY MAY OR MAY NOT SHED LIGHT ON THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF THE ACCUSED -- NONETHELESS REMAIN AS NAGGING CHALLENGES TO THE [REDACTED] CREDIBILITY OF THE "OFFICIAL" STORY. THE BOMB-SLAYING^{OF} POLICE OFFICER LARRY MINARD WAS, [REDACTED] IN THE EYES OF MOST PEOPLE, A TRAGIC AND BRUTAL THING. BUT [REDACTED] TRAGEDY AND BRUTALITY ARE FREQUENT VISITORS TO OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND [REDACTED] AS WE SHALL SEE, WERE NOT CONFINED TO THAT HOUSE ON OHIO STREET.

X

THIS STORY HAS ANY ONE OF A NUMBER OF STARTING POINTS.
[REDACTED]

ONE MIGHT BE THAT DAY IN 1919 WHEN A MOB OF WHITES LYNCHED A BLACK

MAN AT THE CORNER OF 17th AND FARNAM, BURNED THE COUNTY JAIL, AND THEN
DRAGGED THAT MAN'S BODY AROUND TOWN, TIED TO THE BACK OF A MODEL T.
ANOTHER STARTING POINT MIGHT BE LATER IN 1919, WHEN SOME 200 BLACK
MEN WERE HERDED INTO RAILROAD CARS, THE CARS THEN SEALED, AND THE
BLACKS DEPOSITED HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY IN THE PRAIRE. OR THAT DAY
IN THE [REDACTED] 1920'S WHEN KU KLUX KLANSMEN RODE HORSES THROUGH
THE HOME OF A FAMILY NAMED "LITTLE". THEIR SON, ^{(Malcolm X),} MALCOLM, ^V WOULD LATER
RECALL THAT INCIDENT AS HIS ONLY CHILDHOOD MEMORY [REDACTED] OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA. OR
YET ANOTHER STARTING POINT MIGHT BE JUNE OF 1969, WHEN A COP NAMED
LODER THOUGHT THAT A BREAK-IN AT A VACANT APARTMENT GAVE HIM THE RIGHT
TO TAKE ~~W~~ THE LIFE OF ANOTHER HUMAN BEING.

ALL OF THESE ARE POSSIBLE STARTING POINTS IN THE STORY OF
LAST SUMMER'S BOMBING OF THE COPS, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF SIMPLICITY,
WE MIGHT GO TO THE PLEASANT AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 14, A FRIDAY, AT
THE FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

ORGANIZED BY THE OMAHA PRESBYTERY'S COMMISSION ON CHURCH AND
RACE, THE MEETING WAS INTENDED TO ENLIGHTEN CHURCHMEN ABOUT THE PROBLEMS
THAT BLACKS FACE IN DEALING WITH THE POLICE. COMMISSION DIRECTOR, THE
REV. JAMES HARGLEROAD, SAID IT WAS NOT AN "ANTI-POLICE MEETING", BUT ~~HE~~

^{NOT}
DID INVITE ANYONE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE COPS. THEY HAVE THEIR OWN FORUM, SAID HARGLEROAD.

THE MEETING WAS LONG AND SOMEWHAT SLEEPY. WALTER GRIMES OF THE BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER TOLD OF THE OVER-AGGRESSIVENESS OF THE POLICE IN [REDACTED] INSTANCES OF RELATIVELY MENOR CROWD CONTROL. A BLACK HIGH SCHOOL KID TOLD HOW HE CUT CLASSES, AND WAS NAILED FOR LOITERING, A CHARGE LATER DROPPED. A WHITE GERL, WHO [REDACTED] AT COUNTY HOSPITAL, TOLD OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THE POLICE TO RIDICULE INJURED BLACKS AND/OR LONGHAIRS. A WHITE U-N-O STUDENT ALLEGED THAT HE WAS BEATEN UP AFTER RUNNING FROM POLICE IN A [REDACTED] SPEEDING INCIDENT.

THE SIXTY OR SEVENTY MINISTERS LISTENING TO ALL THIS WERE, UNIMPRESSED. ^{mostly} TO SAY THE LEAST, [REDACTED] MIDDLE-AGED, WHITE, PROTESTANT, THEY ASKED FEW QUESTIONS AND SHOWED LITTLE EMOTION -- ONEWAY OR THE OTHER -- TOWARD THE SPEAKERS. ABOUT HALF A DOZEN NEWSMEN WERE PRESENT, AND THEY TOO WERE DROWSY. AS USUAL, TERRY FORSBURG OF K-M-T-V HAD PREPARED A LIST OF WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE "BITING" QUESTIONS. AND AS USUAL, THE SMIRK ON HIS FACE SHOWED WHERE HIS HEAD WAS AT. BOB HOIG OF THE WORLD-HERALD, IN HIS UNBELIEVABLY INNOCENT WAY, ASKED WALTER GRIMES WHY HE WOULDN'T GO TO THE POLICE IF HE SAW A CRIME BEING COMMITTED. GRIMES

PATIENTLY EXPLAINED THAT A CERTAIN HOSTILITY EXISTS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND EVEN HIMSELF. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET ALONG WITH THE POLICE FOR MOST OF HIS FIFTY YEARS, BUT FOUND THAT ^{the} ~~THE~~ LONGER HE TRIED THE HARDER IT BECAME. HOIG PRESSED THE ISSUE: "WALTER, DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT IF YOU SAW A STORE BEING BROKEN INTO, YOU WOULDN'T CALL THE POLICE?" GRIMES PAUSED, SHOOK HIS HEAD. "HELL NO. THEY MIGHT THINK I DID IT, AND COME AND ARREST ME!"

ABOUT HALFWAY THROUGH THE MEETING, THERE APPEARED [REDACTED] DAVID RICE, THE THEN-DEPUTY INFORMATION MINISTER FOR THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT FASCISM. SOME OF THE MINISTERS LOOKED UP AT RICE, THEN QUICKLY TURNED AWAY. TERRY FORSBURG TOOK ONE LOOK, PUT HIS HAND TO THE BACK OF HIS HEAD, AND LOOKED ■ SIDEWAYS. WHEN HE WHISPERED SOMETHING TO HIS COMPANION, THEY BOTH LAUGHED.

THE MEETING REALLY BECAME RICE'S AT THAT POINT. HE SAT DOWN,
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
LIT A CIGARETTE,
[REDACTED] AND WHEN THE TIME CAME, BEGAN TO TELL HIS STORY. HE
TOLD OF AN INCIDENT ABOUT A WEEK EARLIER (AUGUST 8, TO BE EXACT) IN WHICH
HE WAS WALKING DOWN 24th STREET, SPOTTED SOME FRIENDS PARKED IN A CAR,
AND STOPPED TO TALK WITH THEM. AS IS OFTEN THE CASE IN THE SUMMER (FOR
BOTH BLACKS AND WHITES) THEY HAD SOME BEER, AND OFFERED RICE A CAN.

A POLICE CAR DROVE BY A SHORT WHILE LATER, THE OFFICERS SPOTTED RICE, AND DROVE AROUND THE BLOCK. IN SHORT ORDER THEY ARRESTED HIM, AND BEGAN TO TAKE HIM TO JAIL. THE CHARGE: SUSPICION OF DRINKING ON A PUBLIC STREET. ON THE WAY DOWNTOWN, SAID RICE, THE POLICEMEN BEGAN TO RIDICULE AND ^{BERATE} HIM, THREATENING HIM WITH BODILY ^{INJURY,} AND DARING HIM TO ATTEMPT ESCAPE, SO THEY WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOOT HIM. WHEN RICE DID NOT ANSWER THEIR PROVOCATIONS, THEY BEGAN TO PUSH HIM, AND FINALLY SUBJECTED HIM TO AN ON-THE-SPOT "PERSONAL SEARCH". WHEN HE ARRIVED AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, RICE WAS BOOK^{ED} AND SEARCHED AGAIN AND AGAIN, A TOTAL OF FIVE TIMES, ALL FOR THE DEPLORABLE OFFENSE OF DRINKING ON A PUBLIC STREET. (WHICH RICE STILL DENIES; HE SAYS HE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE ON A VACANT LOT).

AS RICE TOLD HIS STORY TO THE ~~R~~ MINISTERS AND NEWSMEN, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT HE HAD LITTLE RAPPORT WITH HIS AUDIENCE. RICE FIGITED, OFTEN DID NOT LOOK AT HIS LISTENERS, OCCASSIONALLY DROPPED IN AN OBSCENITY OR TWO. THE MINISTERS SLUMPED IN THEIR CHAIRS, FOLDED THEIR ARMS, AND PURSED THEIR LIPS. TERRY FORSBURG MANAGED ONE OF HIS BETTER SCOWLS. ALL OF IT WAS AS IF TO SAY: "WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE YOU OVER THE POLICE?"

THERE WERE FEW, IF ANY, QUESTIONS WHEN RICE FINISHED [REDACTED] SPEAKING, SO HE CONTINUED ON IN HIS OWN VEIN, BRIEFLY MENTIONING OTHER ARRESTS, OTHER INCIDENTS, WHICH TO HIM EVIDENCED OUTRIGHT HATRED ON THE PART OF THE POLICE. POLICE CHIEF RICHARD ANDERSON WAS LATER TO SAY THAT "ANY CITIZEN WITH A LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCE COULD AND SHOULD FILE CHARGES". IT'S EASY TO ATTACK PUBLIC OFFICIALS, SAID ANDERSON, SINCE [REDACTED] THOSE OFFICIALS ARE BOUND BY THE LAWS OF SLANDER AND LIBEL. [REDACTED]

AS RICE SPOKE, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT [REDACTED] HIS AUDIENCE COULD HAVE MADE THE SAME REPLY AS CHIEF ANDERSON. THEIR LOOKS SAID, HOW EASY IT IS FOR YOU TO MAKE CHARGES, WHEN THE POLICE AREN'T HERE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. [REDACTED] SENSING THIS, RICE BECAME A BIT MORE SHRILL, NOW SAYING WHITE THAT/POLICE HAD NO PLACE ON A BLACK MAN'S TURF, AND THAT BLACKS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RUN THEIR OWN PART OF THE CITY IN THE WAY THEY SEE FIT. THE AUDIENCE BACKED FARTHER AWAY. RICE, IN TURN, [REDACTED] ASSERTED THAT COPS ENTER THE GHETTO AT THEIR OWN RISK.

FINALLY, THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS. RICE HAD NO MORE TO SAY. THE MEETING QUICKLY AND SILENTLY BROKE UP.

SECTION Break

IN THE SUMMER OF 1970, POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN OMAHA,
NEBRASKA COULD GO ONLY ONE WAY: UP. 1968 HAD SEEN THE WALLACE AF-
FAIR (IN WHICH A YOUTH HAD BEEN SHOT), THE DICE GAME DISTURBANCE, AND
SOME MINOR ~~scuffles~~ IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS, ^{TP} 1969 DAWNED BRIGHT WITH
AN INDEPENDENT REPORT CALLING FOR A POLICE FORCE WITH MORE WISDOM AND
AND LESS HOSTILITY & BRUTALITY. ~~Howwwk,~~ THAT REPORT WAS DASHED AS YET
SHORTLY
ANOTHER INSENSITIVE CITY GOVERNMENT WAS INSTALLED, AND ~~REDACTED~~ THEREAFTER,
PATROLMAN JAMES LODER BLEW THE HEAD OFF 14-YEAR-OLD VIVIAN STRONG,
SPARKING THREE NIGHTS OF VIOLENCE. IN THE FALL OF 1969, THE TROUBLES
OF THE HIGH SCHOOLS WERE SHARPLY FELT AS POLICE HAD TO ESCORT CENTRAL
HIGH STUDENTS TO AND FROM CLASSES. FINALLY, 1969 SAW BLACK COLLEGE
STUDENTS BRIEFLY TAKE OVER THE OFFICE OF U-N-O PRESIDENT DR. KIRK NAYLOR.
^{then} 1970 BEGAN WITH LITTLE OPTIMISM. INCIDENTS BETWEEN BLACK YOUTH
AND THE POLICE HAD CONTINUED EVEN INTO THE WINTER MONTHS, INCLUDING A
HASSLE AT A ROLLER SKATING RINK, A FIGHT AT THE STATE BASKETBALL TOURNA-
MENT, AND FINALLY, A SERIES OF INCIDENTS AT THE J-F-K CENTER. THESE WERE
ALL SEEN AS "SKIRMISHES", AND JUST ABOUT EVERYONE THOUGHT THAT 1970, GIVEN
THE PROPER INCIDENT, WOULD RESULT IN A RIOT OF DIMENSIONS THAT WOULD EX-
CEED EVEN THOSE OF JUNE, 1969.

THAT, FORTUNATLEY, DIDN'T HAPPEN. BUT THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER OF 1970, THERE WAS ALWAYS THAT NAGGING FEELING THAT SOMETHING COULD, OR MIGHT, OR WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. IN A WORD, THE AIR WAS TENSE, AND AT TIMES, THE FEAR, APPREHENSION, AND HOSTILITY ^{will} ~~was~~ SO GREAT THAT IT WAS ALMOST A TANGIBLE, MEASURABLE THING. VISIBLE TOO, IN THE GLANCES OF A COP TOWARD A BLACK, OR A BLACK TOWARD A COP. IT HUNG LOW, AND HUMID, LIKE ^{the} MIDSUMMER ~~was~~ INDUSTRIAL AIR OVER THE NEAR NORTH SIDE.

INTO THIS WAS INJECTED A NEW ELEMENT: THE TERROR BOMB. OMAHA SAW ONLY THREE: ONE IN JUNE, AT ~~the~~ POLICE ASSEMBLY STATION; ONE IN JULY, AT A BLACK-OWNED ELECTRONICS FIRM; THE THIRD IN AUGUST, A VACANT HOUSE. BUT ALL THREE, AND PARTICULARLY THE LAST, WERE SYMBOLIC OF THE SAME TIGHT, TENSE FEELING, THE SAME UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR, THE SAME WEARINESS WITH WHAT SEEMED AN INTOLERABLE AND INSOLVABLE SITUATION. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND ~~was~~ THEN, THAT THERE OCCURED THE EVENTS OF AUGUST 17, 1970.

Break

2:07
AT ABOUT ~~was~~ A.M., THE OPERATOR AT THE POLICE "911" SWITCHBOARD RECEIVED A CALL FROM A MAN WHO SAID HE HEARD A WOMAN SCREAMING

NEAR 28th ~~XX~~ AND OHIO STREETS. THE MAN DID NOT GIVE HIS NAME, SAID ONLY
THAT

HE LIVED NEAR 27th AND PRATT, [REDACTED] BUT DID GIVE THE OPERATOR AN EXACT ADDRESS: 2867 OHIO. THE OPERATOR TOOK THE CALL, THANKED THE MAN, AND BROKE THE CONNECTION.

AS THEY SPOKE, [REDACTED] THE OPERATOR HAD SCRIBBLED NOTES ON A WHITE IBM CARD: ADDRESS, CALLER (MALE), NATURE (WOMAN SCREAMING FOR HELP). HE PASSED IT ON TO A RADIO DISPATCHER, WHO IMMEDIATELY NOTED THE CRUISER DISTRICT THAT WOULD ^{Be} APPROPRIATE FOR THE CALL, RADIOED THAT CAR, AND OK'D THE ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY ANOTHER CAR WHICH WAS NEARBY. THOSE TWO CARS THEN WENT TO THE SCENE, AS DID YET TWO MORE POLICE CARS, WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO BE NEARBY. ^{TP} IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS A SLOW NIGHT, THE COPS HAD NOTHING ELSE TO DO, SO LIKE A BUNCH OF FOOLS, DECIDED TO CONGREGATE FOUR TWO-MAN CARS ON A DARK STREET, WITH NO SERGEANT OR OTHER COMMAND-LEVEL CAR PRESENT. AS ONE BLACK LEADER NOTED AFTERWARD, IT WAS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF POLICE OVER-REACTION. WHILE THERE WAS NO CIVIL DISTURBANCE INVOLVED, IT NONETHELESS POINTS OUT HOW A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF POLICE CARS AND POLICE OFFICERS COULD GATHER IN ONE PLACE.

THE COPS SCATTERED

ABOUT, SEARCHING FIRST 2865 OHIO, THEN 2867. BOTH ADDRESSES WERE RAMSHACKLE OLD SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS, AND BOTH WERE OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS. WHILE NOT FAR FROM THE STREET, BOTH HOUSES WERE FAR AWAY FROM EVEN THE LOW-INTENSITY STREETLAMPS THAT ONE ONLY OCCASSIONALLY SEES IN THE AREA. WITH A CLOUDY, HUMID NIGHT SURROUNDING THEM, THE COPS RUSHED THROUGH THE WEEDS AND INTO THE [REDACTED] HOUSE AT 2867 OHIO STREET.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED HERE THAT MOST OF THE POLICE OFFICERS THAT WORK THE MORNING OR "A" SHIFT, ARE YOUNG MEN, UNDER THIRTY. SO TOO WERE THE MEN WHO SEARCHED THE HOUSE, AND WHILE SOME HAD A NUMBER OF YEARS ON THE FORCE, ALL WERE STILL A BIT OVER-ZEALOUS AND UNDER-CAUTIOUS. SO MUCH SO, IN FACT, THAT THE OFFICIAL POLICE REPORTS PAINT ALMOST A KEYSTONE-KOP SENARIO: OFFICER SO-AND -SO, ACCOMPANINED BY OFFICER THIS-AND*THAT, WENT HERE, WHILE OFFICER WHAT'S-HIS-NAME ACCOMPANIED OFFICER WHOOSIS TO THE BACK ROOM, [REDACTED] AND AT THE SAME TIME, THREE OTHER OFFICERS A, B, AND C, ALL WENT AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE WITH FLASHLIGHTS, MEETING OFFCER D, WHO HAD COME THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR WITH THE OTHERS. WE FIND, THEN, EIGHT POLICEMEN SEARCHING A RELATIVELY TINY HOUSE THAT HAD ONLY FOUR ROOMS ON ITS FIRST FLOOR. IT WAS SO CROWDED, IN FACT, THAT EACH OF THE FIVE MEN WHO ENTERED THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR HAD TO STEP OVER A LIGHT GREEN SUITCASE THAT SITTING NEAR THE ENTRYWAY.

THERE WERE THEN, FIVE OFFICERS INSIDE THE HOUSE, AND THREE OUTSIDE. WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT NO ONE WAS IN NEED OF HELP, THE COPS BEGAN TO GO BACK TO THEIR CARS. THE THREE NEAREST THE BACK DOOR OF 2867 STARTED TO GO OUT THAT WAY. TWO ~~OTHERS~~, OFFICERS LARRY MINARD AND JOHN TESS, STARTED TO GO OUT THE FRONT ~~DOOR~~.

~~MINARD~~ SUDDENLY, MINARD LEANED OVER THE LIGHT GREEN SUITCASE NEAR THE FRONT DOOR. ~~HE~~ IT'S NOT KNOWN FOR SURE IF HE KICKED IT/ ACCIDENTALLY OR MOVED IT ON PURPOSE. AT ANY RATE, IT EXPLODED, AND EXPLODED WITH TERRIFIC FORCE. THE NORHTWEST CORNER OF THE HOUSE WAS ~~EXPLODED~~

COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY, THE OFFICERS OUTSIDE KNOCKED TO THE GROUND. NEXT DOOR, THE HOME OF ELDERLY ROSCOE VAUGHN WAS SEVERLY DAMAGED. THE THREE COPS NEAR THE BACK DOOR WERE BLOWN OUT INTO THE ~~YARD~~ YARD. TESS AND MINARD ~~WERE~~ WERE BLASTED FROM THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE TO THE BACK. TESS WAS SPECKLED WITH SHREDS OF ~~WOOD~~ WOOD, AND DEAFENED BY THE **ROAR** ~~AND~~. AND MINARD.....BOTH OF MINARD'S ANKLES WERE BROKEN, HIS RIB CAGE SHATTERED, THE TOP OF HIS HEAD COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY.

Break

IT TOOK A FEW SECONDS FOR ANYONE TO RESPOND. THE FIRST SENSATION WAS ONE OF DUST, THICK HEAVY DUST, CHOKING AND INFLAMING THE NOSTRILS.

NEXT DOOR, ROSCOE VAUGHN AND HIS WIFE FOUND THEMSELVES CROUCHED ON

THE FLOOR OF THEIR ^{Bed Room} [REDACTED] AROUND THEM PICTURES HAD BEEN KNOCKED

SHATTERED
FROM THE WALLS, A MIRROR [REDACTED], FINE DUST GENTLY FLOATED DOWN FROM

CRACKS IN THE CEILING. ACROSS THE STREET, [REDACTED] A BLACK MAN AND WOMAN, [REDACTED]
HALF-ASLEEP PORCH-SWING
[REDACTED] ON A [REDACTED] WERE STARTLED FROM [REDACTED] FEW
[REDACTED] EACH OTHERS EMBRACE. A FEW MOMENTS

AGO THEY HAD SEEN "SCADS OF PO-LICE-MEN" RUN UP TO 2867 OHIO. NOW ALL

THEY SAW ^{WAS} KINDLING WOOD, BURIED BENEATH A MASSIVE CLOUD OF [REDACTED] DUST.

[REDACTED] WAS GONE AS QUICKLY
THE ROAR [REDACTED] AS IT HAD COME. ALL THEY HEARD NOW WAS

A QUIET MOAN, THEN AN ANGRY CURSE.

STUMBLER
OFFICER MICHAEL LAMSON [REDACTED] OVER THE DEBRIS, RAN TOWARD

A
[REDACTED] CRUISER, GRABBED A MIKE, CALLED FOR HELP. OFFICERS KEN TWOREK AND

JIM SLEDGE WENT BACK INTO THE HOUSE, FOUND PATROLMAN TESS SITTING

UPRIGHT, HIS EYES WIDE AND CHILDLIKE. HE WAS LOOKING AT HIS SHREDDED

UNIFORM, AND NEXT TO HIM, THE BODY OF PATROLMAN MINARD.

COMMAND
[REDACTED] REACTION WAS INSTANTANEOUS. AS SOON AS LAMSON'S CALL
ALERTED, AND SQUAD 20 WAS

WAS RECEIVED, THE OMAHA FIRE DIVISION WAS [REDACTED]
DISPATCHED FROM ITS STATION AT 21st
[REDACTED] AND LAKE. IN RAPID SEQUENCE AN

ENGINE COMPANY WAS SENT, THEN SQUAD 1 FROM DOWNTOWN. A FEW MINUTES

THE FIRE DIVISIONS'
LATER [REDACTED] "SPECIAL SERVICES" UNIT, CONTAINING PORTABLE GENERATORS AND

A HELP AN OFFICER AT 28th AND OHIO. A BOMBING. ONE OFFICER POSSIBLE DEAD, OTHERS INJURED."

"GOD DAMN 'EM", SAID PATTAVINA, REACHING FOR HIS RAINCOAT. HE AND BOZAK WERE [REDACTED] OUT THE DOOR AS THE SQUAWK BOX CONTINUED: "A SQUAD HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND IS IN ROUTE. DISTRICTS 100 AND 200 ARE AT THE SCENE AND C-I-B HAS BEEN NOTIFIED".

TWO FLOORS ABOVE PATTAVINA'S OFFICE, A LIGHT FLASHED IN FRONT OF A YOUNG COP? HE PICKED UP THE PHONE: "C-I-B". THE DISPATCHER TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED, HE SPUN AROUND, CALLED TO THE LIEUTENANT-ON-DUTY. ~~A QUICK CONFERENCE, SEVERAL CARS [REDACTED]~~. THE LIEUTENANT GRABBED A PHONE AND CALLED GLENN GATES, DEPUTY CHIEF, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU. "CHIEF", HE SAID, "THERE'S BEEN A BOMBING AND [REDACTED] AT LEAST ONE UNIFORM OFFICER HAS BEEN KILLED." GATES SHOT BACK: "WHAT'S THE LOCATION?" "28th AND OHIO." "GIVE ME THE DETAILS IN THE CAR. I'M ON MY WAY." ^{TP} PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR AL PATTAVINA. ACTING DOUGLAS COUNTY CORONER GEORGE SULLIVAN. CHIEF FIRE INVESTIGATOR ^{Joe} [REDACTED] PLUTA. [REDACTED] THE ALCOHOL, [REDACTED] TOBACCO, AND FIREARMS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY. THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. EACH NOTIFIED, EACH OUT OF BED, ALL ON THEIR WAY TO 2867 OHIO.

BY 2:30 A.M. OHIO STREET BETWEEN 28th AND 30th WAS JAMMED WITH COPS. ALL 100, 200, AND 300 AREA ^{UNIFORM} CARS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO ^{the} SCENE, WHILE 400 AND 500 CARS WERE ORDERED IN FROM THE SOUTHERN AND WESTERN PARTS OF THE CITY TO COVER. ALL CIB, OR DETECTIVE, CARS WERE ORDERED IN. TOP-RANKING POLICE, FIRE, STATE, AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, FIRE APPARATUS, ALL JAMMED INTO THE NARROW LITTLE STREET THAT SLOPED DOWNHILL TO THE EAST OF 30th. FULLY THREE-FOURTHS OF OMAHA'S POLICE PROTECTION WAS CONCENTRATED IN THAT TINY AREA FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT, AND SINCE THE BLAST SITE HAD TO ^{REMAIN} [REDACTED] UNDISTURBED, [REDACTED] THAT LEFT SOME FIFTY OR SIXTY COPS TO MILL AROUND, SOME CURSING, SOME WEEPING, ALL HEAVILY ARMED, AND ALL BITTERLY ANGRY.

AS WAS NOTED BEFORE, THE MEN ON THE "A" SHIFT ARE YOUNGER, SINCE DUTY IS DETERMINED BY SENIORITY, AND OLDER MEN ^{USUALLY} [REDACTED] ASK FOR BETTER HOURS. BUT EVEN MORE ^{than that} [REDACTED], "A" SHIFT [REDACTED] COVERS THE CITY FROM MIDNIGHT TO 8 A.M., HANDLING THE DRUNKS AS THEY [REDACTED] POUR OUT OF THE BARS, THE PERSONAL INJURY COLLISIONS AS THE DRUNKS TRY TO KILL THEMSELVES, THE FIGHTS, THE FAMILY HASSLES AT BEDTIME, AND OF COURSE, THE BRUNT OF ANY CIVIL DISTURBANCE. "WHERE THE ACTION IS", THAT'S HOW THEY DESCRIBED THEIR JOB, "RIOTS TO RUSH HOUR". AND THEY'RE PROUD OF IT, FOR THEY

^{the}FEEL[^]ESPIRIT D'CORPS THAT COMES FROM [REDACTED] INNUMERABLE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS MET HEAD-ON. THEY'RE TOUGH, AND [REDACTED] AS FAR AS THE OMAHA POLICE DIVISION GOES, THEY STICK TOGETHER TIGHTER THAN ANY OTHER GROUP.

NOW, THEY SAW THE SQUADS TAKE AWAY SIX BUDDIES WITH SUPERFICIAL INJURIES, TESS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE, AND [REDACTED] UNDER A TARP, WHAT WAS LEFT OF LARRY MINARD.

CAPTAIN BILL PATTAVINA WAS MAD, VERY MAD, AND GETTING HOTTER BY THE MINUTE. A BULKY MAN WITH A CRUDE GRIN AND ENORMOUS HANDS, PATTAVINA CONSIDERED HIMSELF AN ADVOCATE OF THE "AVERAGE COP", AS THE OLDER BROTHER OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR AL PATTAVINA, HE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY SHIELDED BETTER THAN MOST COMMAND OFFICERS, AND SO WAS MORE OUTSPOKEN, LESS WILLING TO COMPROMISE, MORE PRONE TO "POWER POLITICS" WITHIN THE POLICE DIVISION.

PATTAVINA HAD BEEN "A" SHIFT COMMANDER FOR ONLY ABOUT SIX MONTHS, BUT HAD GATHERED A LOT OF PUBLICITY IN THAT RELATIVELY SHORT LENGTH OF TIME. OFTEN AT ODDS WITH THE POLICIES OF POLICE CHIEF RICHARD ANDERSON, PATTAVINA WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO CORNER A REPORTER AND TELL HIM WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE DEPARTMENT. HIS FEELINGS TOWARDS BLACKS ARE VAGUE. ^{C shift}UNLIKE[^]"LITTLE NAPOLEAN" LIEUTENANT JOHN RUBERTI, CAPTAIN PATTAVINA WASN'T A MAN TO MIMIC BLACKS IN THE LOBBY OF THE POLICE STA-

TION, BUT LIKE SOME CARTOON COP, WAS DECIDELY "ANTI-CRIME", SO THAT
 "CRIMINALS" WERE OBJECTS OF PERSECUTION, AND SINCE CRIMINALS ARE BLACK,
 STEAMROLLER THE ENTIRE
 YOU COULD JUSTIFIABLY [REDACTED] GHETTO IN SEARCH OF ONE
 THIEF, JUST SO LONG AS YOU GOT THAT THIEF IN THE END.

[REDACTED] PATTAVINA
 WAS LATER TO REFER TO THE "300 OR SO 'AGITATORS' UP THERE", ADDING, "IF
 WE COULD ONLY GET 'EM....." IN OTHER WORDS, WHILE NOT BUBBLING OVER WITH
 AND IGNORANT TO SEE
 HATE, PATTAVINA WAS JUST TOO BULLHEADED [REDACTED] ANYTHING
 OTHER THAN A BATTERING-RAM APPROACH TO LAW ENFORCEMENT. HE WAS THE
 PERSONIFICATION OF "LAWNORDER", HE WAS THE COP'S COP, AS LONG AS THAT
 MEANT NIGHTSTICK REPRESSION.

~~but~~ ~~continued~~
 [REDACTED]

THUS, IN DEALING WITH THE CHIEF AND CITY HALL, PATTAVINA WAS
 ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF ANY RULE OR POLICY THAT HE FELT "ENDANGERED"
 HIS MEN ASSIGNED IN THE NEAR NORTH SIDE AREA. AND FOR PATTAVINA,
 THEY WERE INDEED "HIS MEN, OR AS HE WAS ALWAYS SAYING, "MY BOYS", OR
 "THE FELLAS". A VETERAN OF OVER TWENTY YEARS ON THE FORCE, PATTAVINA
 LOVED THE "A" SHIFT COMMAND [REDACTED], NOT ONLY BECAUSE -- AS IN THE CASE
 OF THE MEN THEMSELVES -- HE HAD THE TOUGHEST ASSIGNMENT, BUT BECAUSE IT
 GAVE HIM 106 SERGEANTS AND PATROLMEN TO CALL HIS OWN. IT GAVE HIM A
 PEDESTAL FROM WHICH HE COULD BULLSHIT WITH REPORTERS. IT GAVE HIM --

IN A VERY LITERAL SENSE OF THE WORD -- THE CITY OF OMAHA BETWEEN THE HOURS OF MIDNIGHT AND EIGHT A.M. DURING THAT TIME, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF KEEPING THE PEACE. IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY. HE NEVER FORGOT THAT, AND HE NEVER LET ANYONE ELSE FORGET IT EITHER.

FOR THE SIX MONTHS THAT HE HAD BEEN "A" SHIFT COMMANDER, PATTAVINA HAD THUS BEEN DAILY FACED WITH THE ANGER, FRUSTRATION, AND POTENTIAL EXPLOSIVENESS OF THE GHETTO. UNLIKE MOST UNIFORM CAPTAINS, PATTAVINA DID NOT STAY BEHIND HIS DESK, BUT ROAMED THE STREETS AS "DISTRICT 700", WAS ON THE SCENE WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENED, TAKING ^{over} COMMAND FROM LOWER OFFICERS. HE HAD NOT, HOWEVER, DEALT WITH FULL-BLOWN RIOT CONDITIONS SUCH AS THOSE THAT OCCURED IN 1969. INSTEAD, HE HAD THE INNUMERABLE "SKIRMISHES" THAT WERE BOTH CONFUSING FOR HIM, AND INFURIATING.

AN EXAMPLE MIGHT ^{BE} THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT FASCISM, LOCATED AT 3508 NORTH 24th STREET. FOR PATTAVINA, IT WAS A RAT ~~S~~ NEST, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. THE PEOPLE WHO SAT OUT IN FRONT AND PEERED DISTAINFULLY ~~THROUGH~~ THROUGH SUNGLASSES AT THE POLICE, WERE ANARCHISTS, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. IT SHOULD BE CLEANED OUT, PLAIN AND SIMPLE? AN INCIDENT IN MIDSUMMER WHERE A SHOT WAS ALLEGEDLY FIRED AT A

CRUISER, CAME DURING THE EVENING, OR "C" SHIFT. PATTAVINA MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT IF HE HAD BEEN IN COMMAND, IT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT FOR HIS ARDOR, THERE WAS A CURIOUS COUNTERPOINT, A POINT THAT MIGHT, IN FACT, EXPLAIN PATTAVINA'S EAGERNESS TO "GET BLACK CRIMINALS". IN APRIL, A DISTURBANCE DEVELOPED AFTER A DANCE AT THE J-F-K CENTER NEAR 24th AND AMES. A HELP-AN-OFFICER CALL WAS ISSUED AS TWO COPS WERE TRAPPED IN A CRUISER. THE CAR WAS BEING STONED AND ROCKED BACK AND FORTH BY ANGRY BLACK YOUTHS. PATTAVINA HAD BEEN IN COMMAND ONLY A COUPLE OF MONTHS, AND INSTEAD OF ORDERING IN MASSIVE LEGIONS OF COPS, HE FOLLOWED WHAT APPARENTLY WAS DEPARTMENT POLICY, AND TRIED TO LET THE TROUBLE "BURN ITSELF OUT". NO MORE CARS WERE ORDERED IN, THE COPS IN THE TRAPPED CAR WERE TOLD TO SIT TIGHT, AND OTHER UNITS WERE TOLD TO STAND BY AND AWAIT FURTHER ORDERS.

THE DISTRICTS THAT PULLED OFF COULD SEE -- OFF IN THE DISTANCE -- THE FLASHING RED LIGHTS ON THE TRAPPED CAR. THEY ROCKED BACK AND FORTH, AS THE CAR WAS SHAKEN BY THE YOUTHS. THEN ONE LIGHT WENT OUT, SHATTERED BY A STONE. THE COPS IN THE CAR CALLED AGAIN FOR HELP, THAT THEY WERE BEING BEATEN UP, THAT SOMEBODY HAD TO GET THEM OUT. THE CARS STANDING BY COULDN'T MOVE, AND THEY WERE HOLDING ON PATTAVINA'S ORDERS.

SOME BAD WORDS WERE SAID ABOUT PATTAVINA THAT NIGHT, AND APPARENTLY THEY WERE WORDS HE NEVER FORGOT. HIS OWN MEN ~~S~~USSED HIM OUT, AND THEY DID SO AFTER HE HAD STRICTLY FOLLOWED DEPARTMENT POLICY IN A CIVIL DISTURBANCE. ~~WHETHER~~ WHETHER CAPTAIN PATTAVINA'S ARDENT ANTI-GHETTO-CRIME STANCE DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF HIS MEN'S ANGER, WHETHER HIS CRITICISM OF DEPARTMENT POLICY REALLY BEGAN AT THIS TIME, ^{OR} ~~^~~ WHETHER HE REALLY GOT TOUGHER AS HE BECAME MORE FAMILIAR WITH HIS JOB, WILL NEVER BE KNOWN. BUT IT WAS WIDELY RUMORED THAT THE INCIDENT AT THE J-F-K CENTER SPARKED PATTAVINA'S "MY BOYS" ATTITUDE, THAT IT INITIATED A FERVENT DRIVE ON HIS PART TO GET RID OF "GHETTO CRIME", AND ~~THAT~~ IT MARKED THE TIME THAT HE FIRST REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING ^{into} ~~TNTO~~ HE N-C-C-F HEADQUARTERS.

IN SHORT, CAPTAIN PATTAVINA HAD TO BE TOUGH FROM THEN ON OUT. HE HAD TO LOOK OUT FOR "HIS BOYS". HE HAD TO BE "A COP'S COP".

Break

SO THEN, AT 2:30 A.M., AUGUST 17, 1970, CAPTAIN BILL PATTAVINA WAS IN A TIGHT SPOT. ONE OF HIS BOYS WAS DEAD. IT HAD BEEN A CLOSE CALL IN JUNE, WHEN SOMEBODY BOMBED NORTH ASSEMBLY JUST AS "A" SHIFT NORTH WAS COMING TO WORK. IT HAD BEEN CLOSE THEN, BUT IT WAS THE REAL THING NOW.

HIS MEN WERE THERE -- MOST OF ~~THEM~~ ^{THEIR} ANYWAY. STANDING AROUND, STARING AT MINARD'S BODY, FINGERING ~~THEIR~~ ^{THEIR} SHOTGUNS, STARING AT THE CROWD OF BLACKS ~~THAT~~ THAT HAD BY NOW GATHERED. THEY WERE MAD -- DAMN MAD. WHAT THE HELL, THEY THOUGHT, WE'RE CALLED IN TO HELP THESE LOUSY BLACK BASTARDS, AND THEY BOMB US. THE SONSOFBITCHES. WE OUGHTA KILL 'EM ALL. THEY GOT NO GODDAM RESPECT FOR ANYTHING, ANYBODY, THE LAW, THE POLICEMAN, NOTHIN'. AND THEN THEY HOLLAR ABOUT US BEIN' BRUTAL.

PATTAVINA LOOKED AROUND. IT FELT LIKE EVERY UNIFORM COP THERE WAS STARING AT HIM, ASKING "WELL, WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?"

ACTUALLY, THERE WASN'T MUCH THEY COULD DO. A WARM RAIN HAD BEGUN TO FALL, STARTING TO CEEAR AWAY SOME OF THE ODOR OF THE EXPLOSIVE AND THE ODOR OF THE DUST FROM THE HOUSE. RESCUE SQUADS HAD CARRIED OFF THE INJURED COPS. THE CIB HAD CALLED IN THE FEDS TO HELP IN THE INVESIT-GATION OF THE BOMB SCENE ITSELF. THE CORONER WAS FINISHING UP HIS INVES-TIGATION. THE FIRE INVESTIGATOR HAD SENT THE ENGINE COMPANY BACK IN, AND HAD CALLED FOR TARPS AND PLYWOOD TO PROTECT THE SITE FROM MOISTURE.

A LARGE OLD TREE IN FRONT OF 2867 BECAME A SORT OF COMMND POST. PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR AL PATTAVINA, FBI AGENTS, DEPTY CHIEF GLENN GATES, FIRE INVESTIGATOR JOE PLUTA, CORONER SULLIVAN, AND CERTAIN PATTAVIAN, ALL HUDDLED UNDER THE TREE AND TRIED TO PLOT A COURSE OF ACTION.

THE FIRST QUESTION: "WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT?" AS HAS BEEN MENTIONED, THERE WERE TWO PREVIOUS BOMBINGS IN OMAHA, AND IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED EXACTLY WHAT WAS KNOWN AS A RESULT OF THOSE INVESTIGATIONS. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE POLICE HAD ANY SUSPECTS, OR ANY FIRM LEADS. BUT DURING THAT CONVERSATION UNDER THE TREE, WHICH BEGAN AT ABOUT ^{3:15} A.M., IMMEDIATE REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE N-C-C-F, AT 3508 NORTH 24th. APPARENTLY THE HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN STAKED OUT FOR A SEARCH EARLIER IN THE SUMMER, AND SOME OFFICIALS HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THERE MIGHT BE DYNAMITE STORED THERE.

CAPTAIN PATTAVINA PICKED UP THE BALL. LET'S RAID THE SONOFABITCH, RIGHT NOW, HE SAID. OTHER OFFICIALS, INCLUDING HIS BROTHER, WERE SKEPTICAL, WONDERING IF ANYTHING WOULD BE KEPT THERE ANYMORE. PATTAVINA PRESSED THE POINT: LET'S GO FIND OUT. ODDS ARE, THAT'S THE BUNCH THAT'S BEHIND THIS. WE KNOW WHAT THEY'RE LIKE. LET'S GET IN THERE AND GET 'EM. SOMEONE MENTIONED A SEARCH WARRANT. SCREW IT, SAID PATTAVINA, GET ONE FROM SIMON, GET HIM OUT OF BED, LET'S GET IN THERE.

AT THIS POINT, DEPUTY CHIEF GLENN GATES BROKE IN. GATES IS A SMART ^{COP} ~~████~~, HEAD OF WHAT USED TO BE KNOWN AS THE "DETECTIVE BUREAU", NOW ~~████~~ THE C-I-B, OR "CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU". AS A SMART COP, GATES

SAW A NUMBER OF

~~REDACTED~~ THINGS: ~~REDACTED~~

FIRST,

~~REDACTED~~ POLICE CHIEF ANDERSON WAS

AT THAT TIME IN PORTLAND, OREGON, INVESTIGATING THE CHIEF'S JOB THERE.

SECOND,

~~REDACTED~~ AS A DEPUTY CHIEF, A SMART COP, WITH A FEW GOOD YEARS LEFT,

GATES STOOD A GOOD CHANCE OF MAKING CHIEF, AND THE \$22,000-A-YEAR SALARY

THAT GOES WITH IT. THIRD, TO SOLVE THIS BOMB-SLAYING, WITH A CONVICTION,

WOULD BE A HELLUVA GOOD FEATHER IN HIS CAP, AND GO A LONG WAY TOWARD THAT

CHIEF'S JOB WHEN AND IF IT WAS AVAILABLE.

IN SHORT, GATES WAS (AN IS) BUCKING FOR HIGHER THINGS. AND

A RAID THAT ~~REDACTED~~ MIGHT SCREW UP HIS CASE ~~REDACTED~~ WAS THE LAST THING HE NEEDED.

NO RAID OF THE N-C-C-F, SAID GATES, WE'VE GOT OTHER THINGS TO DO.

PATTAVINA BLEW UP. WHA'DDA YA MEAN, HE BELLOWED, NO RAID.

LET'S GET IN THERE AND GET 'EM, NOW, WHILE THEY'VE STILL GOT THE THE

EVIDENCE. TOO RISKY, SAID GATES, WE COULD BLOW OUR WHOLE CASE. LET'S

GET THE FACTS TOGETHER, THEN GO LOOKING. CAPTAIN PATTAVINA TURNED TO

HIS BROTHER. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? AL PATTAVINA LOOKED AT THE GROUND,

AT MINARD'S BODY, AT THE ANGRY COPS NEARBY. A BASICALLY QUIET MAN,

AL PATTAVINA WAS MUCH MORE RESERVED AND MUCH LESS BOISTEROUS THAN HIS

OLDER BROTHER. WE CAN'T DO IT, BILL. I KNOW HOW YOU AND YOUR MEN FEEL,

BUT WE CAN'T JUST GO BUSTING UP THE TOWN RIGHT NOW. LET'S GET SOMETHING

UNDER US, THEN GO.

THE CAPTAIN SCOWLED, PULLED AT HIS HELMET. IT WAS RAINING HARDER NOW, AND EVERYONE WAS GETTING MORE AND MORE UNCOMFORTABLE.

"COME ON, ^{Bruno}~~BURNO~~", SAID CAPTAIN PATTAVINA, TUGGING AT THE DOG'S LEASH. THEY TURNED, WENT THROUGH THE BUSHES IN FRONT OF 2867, AND WENT BACK TO THE CAR. REPORTERS NEARBY THOUGHT CAPTAIN PATTAVINA WAS UPSET AT THE LOSS OF ONE OF HIS MEN. "SORRY CAP", THEY SAID. PATTAVINA DID NOT REPLY.

Break

BY 3:30 A.M. THE INVESTIGATION WAS IN HIGH GEAR. THE AREA WAS CORDONED OFF, TARPS LAID DOWN AS THE RAIN CONTINUED. THE CROWD THAT HAD GATHERED WHEN ~~THE~~ THE BLAST FIRST OCCURED, HAD GONE BACK HOME. INVESTIGATORS FANNED OUT, ASKING ANYONE WHAT THEY KNEW, WHAT THEY HAD SEEN. PICTURES WERE TAKEN, DEBRIS COLLECTED TO BE SENT TO WASHINGTON, MEASUREMENTS MADE. NEXT DOOR, ROSCOE VAUGHN AND HIS WIFE WERE INTERROGATED AT LENGTH, AS WERE THE TWO PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN EMBRACING ON THE PORCH SWING.

FOR THE MOST PART, THE LARGE NUMBER OF COPS STOOD BY. THEY DID NOT LEAVE, AND THEY DID NOT WANT TO.

THE DRONE OF

11

HAD

GATHERED

atendants

YELLOW IN THE FLOODLIGHTS. ONE REPORTER GRIMACED, LOOKED AWAY.

FINALLY CAME THE TIME, AND A COUPLE OF FIREMEN HELPED THE ATTENDANTS CARRY MINARD'S BODY TO THE HEARSE. THEY HAD THROWN AN OLD BLANKET ACROSS HIM, SO YOU COULDN'T SEE THE FACE AND HEAD, NOR MOST OF THE REST OF HIS BODY. BUT HIS FEET WERE VISIBLE, AND IT WAS PLAIN TO SEE THAT HIS ANKLES HAD TAKEN MUCH OF THE BLAST. EVERYONE WAS SILENT AS THEY QUICKLY PUT HIM INTO THE HEARSE. IT STARTED UP AND DROVE AWAY, AND THE POLICEMEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, AND THEN AT THE HOUSE, AND THEN AT THE HEARSE GOING DOWN 28th ~~THE HEARSE~~.

THE ACTING COUNTY CORONER GEORGE SULLIVAN WALKED TO HIS CAR, MUTTERING TO A REPORTER: "YOU KNOW, IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STARTED UP THESE PROGRAMS TO MIX ~~THE~~ COLOREDS AND WHITES TOGETHER. THEY'RE SAVAGES, AND IT JUST WASN'T MEANT TO BE THAT WAY, MIXING ~~THE~~ COLORED AND WHITE, GOING TO SCHOOL AND ALL." SULLIVAN LEFT HIS CAR DOOR OPEN ~~AS~~ AS HE FUMBLING FOR HIS KEYS. "AND THIS GUY, THIS LEAHY. HE'S COW-TOWING TO 'EM LIKE A YELLOW SONOFABITCH. THEY OUGHT GET SOMEONE TO GO DOWN THERE TO CITY HALL AND GET UP ENOUGH GUTS TO CLEAN 'EM OUT. MAKE THE WHOLE GODDAM TOWN DECENT. NO, IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE, MIXING COLOREDS AND WHITES LIKE ~~THE~~ THAT".

ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT THE HEARSE ARRIVED AT 2867 OHIO STREET, A POLICE CRUISER PULLED UP TO 6775 SEWARD. AFTER REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO AROUSE ANYONE, THE CALLERS FINALLY ~~WENT TO A~~ ^{TAPPED ON THE} WINDOW^S. THEN, MRS. KAREN MINARD CAME TO THE DOOR. "OH GOD NO," SHE SAID, "NOT LARRY".

Break

THE SUN DIDN'T REALLY COME UP THAT MORNING, RATHER THE SKY JUST BECAME A DIFFERENT SHADE OF GRAY. RAIN WAS POURING DOWN AS A POLICEMAN WALKED OUT TOWARD THE FLAGPOLES IN FRONT OF THE CITY'S NEW POLICE ~~HEADQUARTERS~~ HEADQUARTERS. HE RAN THE AMERICAN FLAG UP, LOWERED IT, THEN ~~RAISED~~ RAISED IT AGAIN, THIS TIME TO HALF-MAST.

Break

IT WAS STILL RAINING AS MAYOR EUGENE LEAHY HEADED FOR ~~WORK~~ ^{WORK}. RAINING HEAVILY. INSTEAD OF HEADING DOWN FLORENCE BOULEVARD AS WAS HIS HABIT, THE MAYOR WENT WEST FROM HIS HOUSE TO MILLER PARK, THEN SOUTH ON 30th TO OHIO, ~~MA~~ A LEFT TURN PAST A POLICE CRUISER, THEN PARKED HIS CAR AND GOT OUT.

2867 WAS STILL SHROUDED IN CANVAS. INVESTIGATORS HAD REMOVED SOME WOOD SAMPLES, AND HAD PRETTY WELL DIAGRAMMED THE AREA. THEY WERE STILL WAITING FOR THE RAIN TO STOP SO THEY COULD, AS ONE MAN PUT IT,

"REALLY TAKE THE PLACE APART". LEAHY NOSED AROUND, WAS SHOWN WHERE THE OFFICERS BODIES HAD BEEN THROWN BY THE FORCE OF THE BLAST, INQUIRED AS TO THE CONDITION OF THE OTHER SEVEN COPS. HE GLANCED NEXT DOOR TO THE HOME OF ROSCOE VAUGHN, SAW THE SIDING ON THE HOUSE CAVED IN.

PUFFING HEAVILY ON HIS DAMP CIGARETTE, THE MAYOR TURNED AND HEADED BACK TO HIS CAR.

LEAHY WAS LACKING HIS USUAL EBULLIENT BULLSHIT WHEN HE ARRIVED AT INTERIM CITY HALL. ONE WOMAN DESCRIBED HIM AS "CRESTFALLEN". AT ANY RATE, HE HAD LITTLE TIME TO BROOD, FOR AT ABOUT 8:30, CAPTAIN BILL PATTAVINA APPEARED IN THE LOBBY TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO "A" SHIFT SERGEANTS AND NO LESS THAN TEN PATROLMEN. THEY WERE ANGRY, AND THEY WANTED TO SEE THEY MAYOR.

LEAHY SPOKE WITH THEM ONLY BRIEFLY IN THE LOBBY, THEN ASKED THE CAPTAIN AND THE TWO SERGEANTS INTO HIS PRIVATE OFFICE. THE COURSE OF THEIR CONVERSATION IS NOT KNOWN, BUT THEY TALKED FOR A HALF HOUR, AND THEY WERE NOT SMILING WHEN THEY EMERGED. THE TEN COPS OUTSIDE REFUSED TO TALK TO REPORTERS, WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THE BOMBING, NOR ABOUT THEIR PURPOSE IN COMING TO CITY HALL.

THE CAPTAIN AND ENTOURAGE LEFT ~~██████████~~ SHORTLY AFTER 9 A.M., AND WHEN APPROACHED BY NEWSMEN, PATTAVINA WAS STILL FURIOUS. POINTING TOWARD PATROLMAN JAMES LODER, WHO JUST HAPPENED TO BE AMONG THE GROUP VISITING THE MAYOR, PATTAVINA EXPLODED: "IF THEY TRIED HALF AS HARD TO GET THE PEOPLE WHO DID THIS AS THEY TRIED TO GET HIM, THEY'D HAVE FOUND THE GUY BY NOW." PATTAVINA WENT DOWN THE STEPS, THROUGH THE FIRST FLOOR, OUT ON TO THE STREET.

AS HE WAS GETTING INTO HIS CAR, PATTAVINA WAS AGAIN APPROACHED BY A REPORTER, THIS TIME INQUIRING ABOUT ~~██████████~~ ^{THE SOURCE OF THE} MENS' ANGER. SAID PATTAVINA, ~~██████████~~ ^{CENTRAL} REFERRING TO THE AUGUST 14th MEETING AT THE FIRST/CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, "ALL WE EVER GET ARE PREACHERS TELLING ABOUT POLICE BRUTALITY. THEY NEVER WANT TO HEAR OUR SIDE OF IT. ASK THOSE PREACHERS WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE FIVE ORPHANS. TELL THEM TO GO SEE MRS. MINARD."

THE SEVENTEENTH OF AUGUST OF 1970 WAS AN AWKWARD,
ALMOST MELANCHOLY DAY FOR OMAHA, NEBRASKA. PEOPLE KNEW WHAT HAPPENED THAT
MORNING, THAT A COP HAD BEEN KILLED, THAT SOME OTHERS WERE HURT, THAT
ONCE AGAIN SOME INCOMPREHENSIBLE TRAGEDY HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THAT INCOM-
PREHENSIBLE PART OF TOWN KNOWN AS THE NEAR NORTH SIDE. BUT IT WAS NOT
CAUSED A BREAK AN EVENT THAT XXXXXXXXXX IN THE FLOW OF THE CITY'S LIFE. IT DID
NOT STOP PEOPLE FROM GOING TO WORK, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IT DID NOT AFFECT PRICES IN THE CITY'S STORES, AND IT DID/CAUSE
MANY PEOPLE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES IN THEIR PLANS, FOR THE DAY.
[REDACTED] IN SHORT, OMAHANS ON
THAT MORNING RAISED THEIR EYEBROWS, BUT THEY DID NOT BREAK STRIDE. THEY
HAD SOMETHING TO DISCUSS DURING THEIR COFFEE BREAKS, SOMETHING WITH WHICH
FOR MOST PEOPLE, THE BOMBING
BLACKS, TO BERATE [REDACTED] BUT LITTLE TO AFFECT THEM. [REDACTED]
MADE ONLY A RIPPLE. IF EVEN THAT.

FOR MOST PEOPLE, BUT NOT ALL. THEMEN ON "A" SHIFT OF THE OMAHA
POLICE DIVISION WERE, IN THE EYES OF ONE OBSERVER, "UNCOMMONLY WEARY"
THAT MORNING WHEN THEY GOT OFF DUTY. ^{Paragraph} A MAN WAS ON HIS WAY TO WORK ~~RECALLED~~
MAYBE, HIS ROUTE TAKING HIM DOWN JACKSON STREET, HEADED EAST, ~~AT THE~~
PAST THE SOUTH SIDE OF CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS. AS HE ~~WAS~~ LATER,
~~THEY WERE ALL WEARY AND THEIR EYES WERE RED~~
"THREE OF THEM WALKED OUT, AND THEY SEEMED TO IGNORE THE RAIN. I WAS

STOPPED AT THE CORNER THERE, AND **I** WATCHED THEM GET INTO THEIR CAR.

THEIR FACES WERE TOTALLY ~~BLANK~~. **BLANK**. THEY SHOWED NO EMOTION,

AS FAR AS **I** COULD TELL, YOU KNOW, THEY JUST WALKED. **FUNNY** HOW THEY

LOOKED....ONE GUY HAD A RAINCOAT OVER HIS ~~arm~~, BUT WAS GETTING

DRENCHED. **WHEN** THE RAIN HIT ~~his~~ HIS BLUE SHIRT, IT MADE IT WET, YOU KNOW,

TURNED IT A DARKER BLUE. **SO** YOU COULD SEE HIS SHOULDERS, AN' HIS

CHEST, AN' HIS BACK WERE ALL WET. **AND** YOU KNOW, HE DIDN'T SEEM TO

NOTICE IT ONE BIT. **HE** JUST LOOKED OUT FROM UNDER THAT CAP AND LOOKED

STRAIGHT AHEAD. **GODDAM**, **I** TELL YOU, **I** WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO GET IN

HIS WAY. **THE** OTHER TWO WERE LIKE THAT, TOO. **JUST** LOOKIN' STRAIGHT

AHEAD, THE THREE OF 'EM, GETTIN' IN THAT CAR AND DRIVIN' OFF."

THE COPS WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES RECOILING FROM THE BOMBING.

IT WAS STILL RAINING THAT AFTERNOON WHEN TWO MEN **APPROACHED** THE

~~STREET~~ THE CORNER OF 17th AND **HARNEY**, ~~IN~~ IN FRONT OF THE

OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT'S BIG DISPLAY WINDOWS. **THE** TWO MEN,

ONE BLACK AND ONE WHITE, WERE BOTH ATTRACTED BY **THE** NEARBY ~~NEWSPAPER~~ **NEWSPAPER** VENDING

MACHINE. **THROUGH** THE ~~PLASTIC~~ PLASTIC WINDOW YOU COULD SEE THE **WORLD-HERALD'S**

UNDERSTATED HEADLINE: "**ANGRY** **POLICEMEN** **SEEK** **DEADLY** **HOUSE** **BOMBER**". **THE**

FRONT PAGE ARTICLE HAD A PICTURE OF THE DEMOLISHED HOUSE AT 2867 **OHIO**,

WITH **BURLY** PLAINCLOTHES INVESTIGATORS STANDING AROUND WITH THEIR HANDS

ON THEIR HIPS, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED, TRYING TO PIECE THE RUBBLE ~~BACK~~ BACK TOGETHER. "SEVEN-YEAR VETERAN DEAD" SAID ONE LINE; "POLICEMEN MEET LEAHY IN BOMB BLAST'S WAKE" SAID ANOTHER. THEN ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE, ONE OF THOSE SILLY, STIFF LITTLE PICTURES THAT EVERY ORGANIZATION REQUIRES ITS MEMBERS TO HAVE TAKEN. ~~AN~~ AN OFFICIAL POLICE I.D. PICTURE OF PATROLMAN LARRY D. MINARD, SR., AND IT WAS A DISTURBING PICTURE, ONE THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN WHEN HE FIRST JOINED THE FORCE, ~~BECAUSE~~ BECAUSE HE LOOKED YOUNG, TERRIBLY YOUNG, TOO YOUNG TO WEAR A POLICEMAN'S UNIFORM, TOO YOUNG TO GET KILLED. AN ~~AWKWARD~~ AWKWARD PICTURE BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES: HE LOOKED RIGHT AT YOU, AND HE HELD HIS HEAD STRAIGHT, BUT HIS EYES WERE GENTLE, AND THEY WERE NOT THREATENING, AND YOU DID NOT TURN AWAY BECAUSE YOU WERE LOOKING AT THUG ^A DRESSED UP LIKE A COP. YOU TURNED AWAY BECAUSE HIS FACE HAD NO WRINKLES NOR CREASES, AND ~~BECAUSE~~ BECAUSE HIS MOUTH SEEMED KIND, AND BECAUSE YOU KNEW HE WAS DEAD.

THE BLACK MAN AND THE WHITE MAN STARED INTENTLY AT THE ~~HEAD~~ ^{HEAD}'S FRONT PAGE. THE RAIN FELL, THE LIGHT WENT THROUGH A COMPLETE CYCLE, BUT NEITHER MAN CROSSED THE STREET. THEY STOOD NEXT TO EACH OTHER, READ THE PAPER, LOOKED AT THE HOUSE, LOOKED AT MINARD. THE BLACK MAN WAS THE FIRST TO SPEAK: "SURE IS TERRIBLE, AIN'T IT?" ~~THEY WERE BOTH~~

THE WHITE MAN LOOKED AT HIM. **B**OTH WERE ABOUT THE SAME AGE, IN THEIR LATE THIRTIES. **B**OTH WERE WORKING MEN, WITH ROUGH HANDS, BAD TEETH, SHABBY CLOTHES. ~~SAID~~ **S** SAID THE WHITE MAN: "YEAH, HELLUVA THING." **H** HE QUICKLY TURNED HIS EYES BACK TO THE PAPER.

THE BLACK MAN KEPT LOOKING AT ~~THE~~ WHITE. **H** HE BLINKED A TIME OR TWO, THEN MOVED HIS HAND PAST HIS EYES, AND WIPED AWAY THE RAIN ~~WATER~~ **W** "YEAH, HELLUVA THING, THEM COMIN' OUT TO HELP A WOMAN AN' ALL."

THE BLACK MAN KEPT HIS EYES ON THE WHITE, HIS MOUTH MOVING JUST A BIT, HIS VOICE ENDING ON THE UPSWING, AS IF EXPECTING A REPLY, AS IF TO SAY, "LOOK GODDAM IT, I DIDN'T DO IT. DON'T BLAME ME. DON'T TURN AWAY FROM ME. LOOK AT ME, GODDAM IT, LOOK AT ME. LOOK AT ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE A THING TO DO WITH IT."

THE WHITE MAN MUTTERED, THEN QUICKLY -- VERY QUICKLY -- PULLED A ~~ONE~~ DIME FROM HIS POCKET AND BOUGHT THE PAPER. **A** AS HE WALKED AWAY HE SEEMED NOT SO MUCH TO BEAR MALICE, AS TO SUFFER FROM EMBARRASSMENT. **H** HE WIPED HIS NOSE, TUGGED AT HIS COAT, AND HURRIED BACK TOWARD ~~THE~~ **KRESGE'S**.

THE BLACK MAN WATCHED HIM GO, THEN CROSSED 17th WHEN THE LIGHT CHANGED. **H** HE TOO WIPED HIS NOSE, TUGGED AT HIS JACKET, AND LOOKED DOWN AT THE PAVEMENT.

[A]ND NEARBY, A YOUNG BLACK MAN -- IN HIS TWENTIES, PERHAPS --
WATCHED THEM BOTH. HE SHOOK HIS HEAD, MUTTERED AN OBSCENTLY, AND WENT
ON HIS WAY TOO.
~~██████████~~.

SPACE

[THE] OMAHA POLICE DIVISION -- LIKE ANY SUBDIVISION OR ELEMENT
OF GOVERNMENT -- IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL PRESSURE. THERE ARE
MANY WHO ^{SAY} ~~██████████~~ THAT IT IS ^{EXTREMELY} ~~██████████~~ SELECTIVE IN ITS RESPONSE, BUT IT IS
NONETHELESS AN UNASSAILABLE FACT THAT THE POLICE ~~██████████~~ ARE ALWAYS AWARE OF
PUBLIC SENTIMENT. [A] GOOD CASE IN POINT WOULD BE THE MURDER OF PEGGY
GIDDINGS: PEOPLE WERE SHOCKED, THE MAYOR SAID "PRODUCE", AND THE COPS
WORKED THEIR ASSES OFF. [O]F COURSE, IT WOULD BE SIMPLISTIC TO SAY THAT
ONLY BY PRESSURE WILL THE POLICE MOVE; ~~██████████~~ THEY DO ~~██████████~~ PAY AT LEAST
LIP SERVICE TO THE ~~██████████~~ IDEA OF BEING PUBLIC SERVANTS, AND THERE ARE
INDEED MEN ON THE FORCE WHO REALLY DO CARE IF YOUR STOLEN LAWN MOWER IS
FOUND. ^{HP} ~~██████████~~ ^{FACT} BUT THE ~~██████████~~ REMAINS THAT SOMETHING OF A "DOMINO THEORY" CAN
BE APPLIED TO THE COP-CITIZEN SITUATION IN OMAHA: IF YOU HIT THE MAYOR
ON THE HEAD, HE IN TURN TAPS THE PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, HE THE CHIEF,
AND SO ON. A CORROLLARY, OF COURSE, IS THAT EACH SUCCESSIVE TAP BECOMES
LIGHTER, BUT A DISCERNIBLE TAP, NONETHELESS, SO A "TUMBLE-DOWN" EFFECT

CAN BE REALIZED. ^{PS} SINCE THE POLITICS ~~EX~~ WITHIN THE **OMAHA** POLICE DIVISION RIVAL ~~THE~~ THOSE IN THE COURT OF **LOUIS XIV**, THERE ARE CROSS-PRESSURES THAT ALSO COME INTO PLAY TO USUALLY DILUTE THE IMPACT OF THE "TUMBLE-DOWN". **A** PATROLMAN WHO HEADS THE **POLICE UNION** COULD CONCEIVABLY CARRY MORE CLOUT THAN A CAPTAIN. **A** CAPTAIN WHOSE BROTHER IS **PUBLIC SAFETY** DIRECTOR AND WHO HIMSELF IS AN "OLD-TIME VET", COULD CONCEIVABLY STAND ABOVE ALL OTHER CAPTAINS. AND A DEPUTY CHIEF WHO'S BUCKING FOR HIGHER THINGS, AND WHO STANDS IN THE LIMELIGHT OFTEN, COULD CONCEIVABLY RIVAL THE CHIEF FOR TV AIRTIME.

^{THIS} LITTLE LESSON IN POLITICAL SCIENCE IS REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN A REMINDER OF THE FACT THAT THE **OMAHA** POLICE, COMPOSED OF ABOUT 565 COPS, ^{ARE} ~~IS~~ GOING TO HAVE ONE HELLUVA A SYSTEM OF INTERNAL PRESSURES. ^{THAT} IS TO SAY, "OFFICE POLITICS" WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.

^{But} ADD TO THAT THE FACT THAT IT'S A SUBSECTION OF ^a MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, ADD THE FACT THAT IT'S PARAMILITARY, AND ADD THE FACT THAT IT'S A HIGHLY VISIBLE AND EXTREMELY "CRITICAL" AGENCY, PUT THIS ALL TOGETHER, FOCUS IT, AND YOU HAVE THE STUFF FOR A BORING NOVEL. ^{ADD THE} ~~QUASI-~~ POLITICAL DEATH OF A MEMBER, ADD THE EMOTION OF **OMAHA** IN 1970, IN AN ERA OF RACE HATRED ~~MAGNIFIED~~ AND POLITICAL RHETORIC AMPLIFIED, AND YOU HAVE EVERY BIT OF DRAMA, AND EVERY HUMAN STRESS THAT COULD BE IMAGINED.

Now, ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 17, 1970, A SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED [REDACTED]

SET OF PRESSURES EXIST: THE "DOMINO THEORY" DOESN'T FALL DOWN ON THE HEADS OF SUBORDINATES, BUT RATHER EXERTS PRESSURE UPWARD, SO THE GUY ON THE SPOT ISN'T THE AVERAGE PATROLMAN, BUT THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE DIVISION, ALL THE WAY TO THE MAYOR. JUST AS PUBLIC PRESSURE COULD MOVE THE COMMAND STRUCTURE, SO TOO IN EXTREME SITUATIONS CAN THE BOYS IN THE CRUISER CARS. ^{TP} THIS HAS BEEN SEEN IN A PREVIOUS ARTICLE IN THE FACT THAT ^{the} MAYOR FIRST STOPPED BY THE BOMB SCENE ON HIS WAY TO WORK, AND THEN RECEIVED TEN PATROLMEN IN HIS OFFICE THAT MORNING.

THE HASSLE WAS ^{ON} ~~WITH~~ EUGENE LEAHY TO ABOUT THE LEVEL OF POLICE CAPTAIN, INCLUSIVE. IT WOULD BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE ANY PUBLIC PRESSURE COULD BE NOTICED, SO AT THE OUTSET IT'S WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED "PATROLMAN POWER" THAT KEEPS THE MAYOR BABBLING, AND KEEPS THE INTENSITY OF THE INVESTIGATION ~~AS~~ AS HOT AS POSSIBLE. IT IS POLICE ANGER AND GRIEF THAT COMPELS THEM TO TREAD HEAVILY BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE CITY, DIGGING, RANSACKING, PUSHING AND SHOVING THEIR WAY INTO EVERY CREVICE THAT MAY HOLD ^{INFORMATION.} ~~REDACTED~~

LIKE THE HEROES OF SOME CHEAP NOVEL OR THE ^{STARS} ~~REDACTED~~ OF A COMIC STRIP, THEY LUNGE FORWARD. ^{CHILDREN} LIKE DISTRAUGHT ~~REDACTED~~, THEY LASH AT THAT WHICH THEY HATE AND FEAR. ^{But,} LIKE PROFESSIONAL LAWYERS, THEY START TO BUILD A CASE, AND LIKE HUMAN BEINGS, THEY FEEL PAIN AND BEAR SORROW.

So, FOR MOST OF OMAHA, MONDAY THE SEVENTEENTH OF AUGUST WAS ANOTHER DAY, ONLY POCKMARKED BY A NEWS ITEM ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED IN NIGGERTOWN. FOR BLACK OMAHA, REALLY YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE, IT WAS A DAY OF MOSTLY APPREHENSION. FOR ~~THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND~~ ALL ITS ENTITIES, IT WAS A DAY OF TURBULENCE. AND FOR THE OMAHA POLICE,FOR THE COPS IT WAS HELL, AND HARD WORK.

SPACE

~~THE~~ FOCUS OF THE HARD WORK WAS ON THE ^{FOURTH} FLOOR OF CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS, IN THE FRESH, NEW HOME OF THE C-I-B, OR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU. HEADING THE INVESTIGATION WAS DEPUTY CHIEF GIENN GATES, VETERAN COMMANDER OF THE C-I-B, AND BEFORE THAT, THE OLD DETECTIVE BUREAU.

GATES POSES A FASCINATING FIGURE. HE'S A COP, BUT A VERY SPECIAL KIND. NOT A LARGE MAN, HE'S NONETHELESS TRIM AND FIT, AND WHILE GREY-HAIRED, HE IS BY NO MEANS PAST HIS PRIME. A NEAT DRESSER, GATES IS FAR, FAR AWAY FROM THE HULKING BOOR THAT ONE USUALLY ENVISIONS AS A COP. ^{DELICATE,} SIMULTANEDUSLY, HE IS NOT ~~DELICATE~~, CAN BARK FEROCIOUSLY, AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, CAN BACK UP THAT BARK IN A VARIETY OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE

WAYS. HE IS THEN, A MAN WHO VERY SIMPLY COMMANDS RESPECT....BRED NOT SO MUCH OUT OF FEAR, OR DISLIKE, AS OF ADMIRATION, FOR YOU DO RESPECT GLENN GATES, WHETHER YOU RESPECT ^{ALL} ~~THE~~ COPS OR NOT.

IT'S HARD TO SAY WHY ONE RESPECTS GATES, ^{JUST AS IT'S HARD TO} ~~EVER PUT YOUR FINGER ON WHY YOU LIKE OR ADMIRE OR RESPECT ANYBODY.~~

GATES LOOKS LIKE A BUSINESSMAN, BUT HIS SPEECH AND HIS DEMEANOR HAS

TOO ROUGH A QUALITY IN IT, HIS MOVES ARE ^{TOO} ~~A~~"OFF THE STREET" FOR HIM TO

BE JUST FALLEN FROM THE WOODMEN TOWER. GATES IS DISCERNIBLY "MIDDLE

AMERICAN", IN THAT A BRIEF CONVERSATION WILL ~~REVEAL~~ QUICKLY REVEAL

THAT YOU ARE TALKING TO A MAN WHO HAS VERY LITERALLY PULLED HIMSELF UP

BY HIS BOOTSTRAPS. HE IS IMMEDIATELY REMINISCENT OF MANY BUSINESS EXECU-

TIVES IN OMAHA WHO HAVE WHAT MUST BE CALLED "FIRST GENERATION FINESSE":

HE IS ON OR NEAR THE TOP, BUT LACKS ~~POLISH~~ ~~ONE~~ WOULD

NOT BE SURPRISED TO FIND HIM AT IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS, MAKING IMPORTANT

DECISIONS, BUT QUITE COMFORTABLY PICKING HIS NOSE AS HE WALKS IN THE DOOR.

AND THIS MAY WELL BE THE QUALITY THAT IS MOST LIKEABLE IN ~~D~~PUTY CHIEF GATES. YOU KNOW RIGHT OFF THAT HE IS DAMN WELL A WHOLE LOT SMARTER

THAN MOST OF THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM, AND YOU KNOW HE CALLS THE SHOTS.

BUT YOU DO NOT BECOME AFRAID OF GATES UNTIL HE WANTS YOU TO BE. HE CHOOSES

THE TIME AND PLACE AND CIRCUMSTANCES TO EXERCISE HIS AUTHORITY, AND
IN THE MEANTIME, CAN BE ONE HELLUVA NICE GUY.

EXAMPLES OF THIS ABOUND. IMMEDIATELY NOTABLE IS A CONVERSA-
TION THAT DEVELOPED WITH REPORTERS ONE DAY ON THE USE OF FIREARMS .

ONE FOOL OF A REPORTER BLURTED OUT: "WELL, HEH-HEH, HOW ABOUT YOU?

YOU EVER SHOOT ANBODY?" GATES LOOKED AMUSED, THEN LOWERED HIS EYES.

"YEAH, UNFORTUNATELY. I'VE HAD TO SHOOT PEOPLE TWICE....TWO
GUYS, A LONG TIME AGO."

THE REPORTER: "WELL, WHAT HAPPENED? DID THEY DIE?"

"~~NO~~ LUCKILY NO. I WOUNDED 'EM, AND THEY SURVIVED. YEAH,
I'M HAPPY TO SAY THEY SURVIVED." SO STATED VERY MATTER-OF-FACTLY,
SAID VERY MUCH IN PASSING, NOT LIKE A MAN WHO'S PROUD TO SAY HE SHOT
SOMEONE, BUT RATHER, LIKE SOMEONE WHO TRULY REGRETS IT. ^{TP}GATES HAS
BEEN A COP A LONG TIME, BUT UNLIKE MANY OTHER VETERANS, HE'S NOT SO
TERRIBLY PRONE TO LOOK BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER AT HIS CAREER. HE'S
MUCH MORE INCLINED TO REMIND YOU THAT HE'S THE BOSS NOW, THAN TO REMIND
YOU THAT HE'S BEEN AROUND ~~FOR YEARS.~~ YOU RESPECT HIM NOT BECAUSE
OF WHAT HE HAS DONE, BUT BECAUSE HE'S THE BOSS HERE AND NOW AND RIGHT
IN FRONT OF YOU.

SO INDEED, GLENN GATES IS A PERSON THAT CAN BE [REDACTED]
RESPECTED, AND IN MANY WAYS, EVEN ADMIRER. HE IS THE DEPUTY CHIEF,
BUT HE IS APPROACHABLE.

[REDACTED] BUT AFFABILITY AND APPROACHABILITY ARE NOT THE QUALITIES THAT
MADE GLENN GATES THE ^{HEAD} [REDACTED] OF THE POLICE DIVISION'S INVESTIGATIVE
BUREAU. GATES' FIEFDOM IS A RARE ONE, DEALING ^{NOT SO MUCH} [REDACTED] WITH "OF THE
MOMENT" POLICE|WORK, BUT AS THE NAME IMPLIES, "AFTER THE FACT" INVESTIGA-
TION. [THE C-I-B OFFICERS VARY WIDELY IN ABILITY AND ASTUTENESS, BUT THEY
COMMONLY PRIDE THEMSELVES IN THE REALIZATION THAT THEIR JOB TAKES SOME
WITS. LIKE UNIFORM OFFICERS, THEY TOO HAVE DOZENS OF PETTY, MUNDANE ~~AND~~
TASKS TO PERFORM. THEY TOO WRITE REPORTS AND FILE REPORTS AND MUDDLE
THRU ALL THE QUASI-LEGAL ~~AND~~ MUSH THAT IS ONLY VAGUELY UTILIZED AND
COMPREHENDED. BUT, THEY ARE ALSO THE ONES WHO HAVE TO FIGURE THINGS OUT
WITH SOME PRECISION AND SOME HOPE OF RESULTS. CENTRAL TO THEIR FUNCTION
IS THAT SUPERFICIALLY ~~AND~~ TRITE TASK: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER AND
FIGURING ^{THUM} ~~IT~~ OUT.

[A CLASSIC AND ENJOYABLE EXAMPLE OF THE "AVERAGE" C-I-B COP
WOULD BE A CERTAIN LIEUTENANT WHO SPECIALIZES IN CATCHING BAD CHECK
WRITERS. HE'S BEEN ~~CHASING~~ ^{artist} CHASING BAD CHECK ~~CARRIERS~~ -- AS HE ONCE

PUT IT -- "SINCE BEFORE THEY PUT MAGNETIC CODES ON ~~██████~~ CHECKS".

THIS COP KNOWS ALL THE INS AND OUTS, ALL THE VARIETIES AND PRACTICES OF THE BAD CHECK ~~██████~~ WRITER. HE KNOWS WHAT THEY DO, HOW AND WHY THEY DO IT, AND MOST OF ALL, WHAT THEY DO AFTER THE FACT. AS HE PUTS IT ~~██████~~ WITH A SHRUG: "THEY'LL TURN UP SOONER OR LATER.

AND WHEN THEY DO, I'LL CATCH 'EM." SIMPLE AS THAT.

SO, THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE OMAHA POLICE DIVISION -- LIKE ITS HEAD, DEPUTY CHIEF GLENN GATES -- IS A NOTCH OR TWO OR THREE ABOVE THE REST OF THE OUTFIT. ITS WORK IS BY ~~██████~~ NATURE DIFFERENT, ITS APPROACH MORE SUBTLE, ITS TALENTS LESS CONSPICUOUS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE C-I-B ^{Hum} IS ^{IA} MUCH MORE RESPECTABLE CREATURE THAN SAY, THE UNIFORM DIVISION. RD DO NOT BE MISLED: IT IS STILL MADE UP OF COPS, AND SMART THOUGH SOME MAY BE, THEY ARE STILL COPS AND STILL POSSESS AND FLAUNT THAT UNIQUE, JAUNDICED POLICE APPROACH TO LIFE.

IN FACT, WHEN YOU SPEAK OF "POLICE STATE", YOU REALLY SPEAK OF THE VALUE SYSTEM THESE MEN EMBODY. OVERT DENIAL OF PERSONAL FREEDOM COMES MOST OBVIOUSLY DURING MILITARY OCCUPATION, WHEN THE PEACE IS MAINTAINED BY UNIFORMED TROOPS, OR ~~XXXX~~ FOR OUR PURPOSES, POLICEMEN. THIS IS AN EASILY RECOGNIZED REPRESSION THAT IS ANATHEMA TO MOST PEOPLE, AND THIS ISN'T WHAT WE REFER TO WITH THE TERM "POLICE STATE". THE PRESENCE OF THE UNIFORMED PEACEKEEPER REALLY IMPLIES "MARTIAL LAW". "POLICE STATE" REFERS TO

THAT MUCH MORE SUBTLE AND FAR MORE DAMAGING FORM OF REPRESSION:

THE ~~PLAIN~~CLOTHES UNDERCOVER ~~APPROACH.~~ ~~AND~~ AND AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT IN THIS

"AFTER-THE-FACT-INVESTIGATIVE-FUNCTION" THAT YOU FIND THE HANDY

EMPLOYMENT OF THE TOOLS OF THE POLICE STATE? ~~Isn't~~ IT THE

INVESTIGATORS WHO WILL USE BACK-ROOM COERCION, BRIBERY, AND THE

MORE CONTEMPORARY WIRETAPPING AND EAVESDROPPING TO ACQUIRE THE INFORMA-

TION NEEDED TO CONVICT?

THINK THAT THE MORE
THIS IS ALL TO SAY THAT ONE SHOULD NOT ~~BE~~

CEREBRAL THE POLICE

ACTIVITY, THE LESS INTIMIDATING THAT ACTIVITY

MIGHT BE. ~~But~~ RATHER, THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED ARE FAR EASIER

TO COMMUNICATE WITH ON A PERSON-TO-PERSON BASIS. I CAN TALK TO A

GUY IN A BUSINESS SUIT; I CAN'T TALK TO A MAN WITH AN AMMO BELT ON

HIS HIP.

OF THE C-t-B THEN, IT BECOMES OBVIOUS THAT GLENN GATES AND

THE BUREAU MESH WELL. GATES NOT ONLY LEADS ^{the} C-t-B, HIS ^{MELLOW BUSINESS} ~~XXXXXXXX~~

SUIT TYPICALS IT. IN TURN, C-t-B IS NOT JUST AN AMALGAMATION OF 75

OR SO NON-UNIFORMED COPS, BUT GLENN GATES' COPS. LIKE SOME WELL-PLANNED

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT, THESE ELEMENTS NICELY SNAP TOGETHER IN A COMPACT

MODULE, AND PLUG INTO THE SYSTEM OVERALL.

~~Now then,~~ ^{AGAIN} WITH ALL THIS FOR A BACKDROP, WE MUST TURN ~~XX~~
 TO THAT RAINY MORNING OF AUGUST 17, 1970, TO APPLY THE MOOD, POLITICS,
 AGENCIES, AND INDIVIDUALS. AS WAS MENTIONED IN A PREVIOUS ARTICLE IN
 THIS SERIES, CHIEF RICHARD ANDERSON WAS NOT IN OMAHA WHEN THE BOMBING
^{Seattle, Wash.}
 TOOK PLACE; HE WAS IN ~~Des Moines, Iowa~~, SNOOPING AROUND THE CHIEF'S JOB
 THERE. EVERYBODY KNEW THIS, INCLUDING AND ESPECIALLY GLENN GATES, WHOSE
 AMBITION FOR THAT POST IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT. ^{then} THERE WAS A NICE LITTLE
 DRAMA SHAPING UP, A DRAMA THAT HAD AS ITS CENTRAL CHARACTER GLENN GATES.
~~_____~~

IN RETROSPECTIVE, ONE DOES NOT ENVY GATES THAT MORNING. HE
 KNOWS THE DELICATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND CITY
 HALL, HE KNOWS THE ANGER OF THE UNIFORM COPS, HE KNOWS THE CHIEF'S JOB
 MIGHT BE OPEN, HE KNOWS PUBLIC SENTIMENT IS A VERY REAL FORCE, AND HE
 KNOWS THAT THE WHOLE DAMN WORKS NOW FALLS MAINLY ON HIS SHOULDERS. HE'S
 ON THE FIRING LINE MORE THAN ANYONE, ~~HE'S~~ HE'S GOT MORE TO LOSE IF THE
 WHOLE ~~CASE~~ IS BLOWN ^{GAIN} ~~AND~~ HE'S GOT MORE TO ~~LOSE~~ IF IT'S QUICKLY

RESOLVED.

GATES WAS PAINFULLY AWARE OF ALL THIS ~~AND~~ DURING THE EARLY MORNING
 HOURS OF THE 17th. HE WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE SCENE, AND LED THE INVESTIGA
 TION FROM ITS INITIAL STAGES. AS HAS BEEN MENTIONED EARLIER, HE WAS

FACED AT THE OUTSET BY DEMANDS FROM OTHER COMMAND OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY "A" SHIFT COMMANDER, CAPTIAN WILLIAM PATTAVINA, TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO COMBAT FASCIEM, RAID IT, AND ARREST ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED. [IT WAS PATTAVINA'S IMMEDIATE ASSUMPTION THAT THE N-C-C-F WAS INVOLVED, AND HE WANTED TO BOTH LET HIS MEN BLOW OFF STEAM AND GRAB ANY EVIDENCE THAT MAY BE DESTROYED BY WAITING.

[GATES WAS FIRST COOL TO THE PROPOSAL, THEN FIRMLY OPPOSED.

HIS GUT REACTION WAS THAT THIS WAS A MESSY WAY TO DO THINGS, ONE THAT COULD GET HIS WHOLE CASE BLOWN RIGHT OUT OF COURT. NO CIVIL LIBERTARIAN, IT WAS ^{STILL} OBVIOUS TO GATES IT ~~MUST HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS~~ THAT ANY JUDGE WOULD NEED SOME CAUSE TO ISSUE A SEARCH WARRANT, THAT WITHOUT A WARRANT THEY WERE SUNK, AND THAT THEY WERE SIMILARLY UP THE CREEK ~~XXXXXXX~~ IF THEY WENT ON A "FISHING EXPIDITION".

GATES SUMMARILY VETOED THE IDEA OF RIPPING INTO THE N-C-C-F HEADQUARTERS, AND AS HAS BEEN NOTED, PATTAVINA WENT AWAY MADDER THAN HELL.

[BUT THE INCIDENT WAS A SIGNAL TO GATES. HE KNEW HOW THINGS WERE. ~~THE INCIDENT~~ MOMENTS AFTER PATTAVINA LEFT, A REPORTER APPROACHED GATES AND ASKED HIM "HOW THINGS WERE GOING".

["NOT WORTH A SHIT", WAS THE REPLY.

[THE REPORTER CONTINUED: "GOT ANY KIND OF A STATEMENT YET?"

[GATES REPLIED: "WELL, ^{what} ~~THE~~ THE HELL HAVE WE GOT.....? WE GOT

A BUNCH OF INJURED PEOPLE, THAT'S ALL. ~~ONE~~ DEAD ONE. ~~OTHER~~ THAN THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED OR ANYTHING ELSE. ~~EX...~~ ^HOW SOON BEFORE WE HAVE ANYTHING, IS UNDERMINED, BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWIN'.
 WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT NOW FOR A WHILE TO DO ANYTHING."

^TERSE, QUITE CAUTIOUS, A BIT TENSE, AND UNDERSTANDABLY SO.

GLENN GATES WAS AT STAGE CENTER, AND HE KNEW IT.

Space

^THE INVESTIGATION WENT INTO HIGH GEAR IMMEDIATELY, WITH GATES TAKING PERSONAL COMMAND. ^FIRST CAME COMPILATION OF THE IMMEDIATELY-KNOWN DETAILS: WHEN THE CALL CAME IN, WHEN THE COPS GOT THERE, WHAT THEY DID, AND SO FORTH. ^THERE WAS FURIOUS RADIO ACTIVITY AS INVESTIGATORS AT THE SCENE RELAYED INFORMATION BACK TO ^{CAP} ^{police} CENTRAL ^{VH} HEADQUARTERS, AND AS COPS INTERVIEWING THE INJURED FED INFO INTO THE SYSTEM, TRYING TO ESTABLISH JUST WHAT DID HAPPEN. ^IF NOTHING ELSE, A FRAME OF REFERENCE WAS ESTABLISHED, THE KNOWN FACTS INTO WHICH THE DATA COULD BE IMPLANTED, AND FROM WHICH THE QUESTIONS WOULD COME.

^WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON, ANOTHER, AND ACTUALLY MORE PRESSING PROBLEM AROSE. ^STARTING FROM [|] SCRATCH IN THE INVESTIGATION, THE COPS HAD TO KNOW WHAT TYPE OF EXPLOSIVE THEY WERE DEALING WITH, AND WHAT THE PATTERN

OF THE EXPLOSION WAS. IT HAD BY ~~2~~ 3 A.M. BEGUN TO ~~R~~AIN QUITE HEAVILY, AND IMMEDIATE STEPS HAD TO BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE BLAST SCENE UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION COULD BE COMPLETED. AS ~~HAS BEEN~~ MENTIONED EARLIER, THE FIRE ^{Division} ~~GRABBED~~ GRABBED EVERY TARPULIN IT COULD GET ITS COLLECTIVE HANDS ON TO COVER THE WHOLE AREA IN AND AROUND 2867 OHIO.

AT THE SAME ~~XXXXXXXX~~ TIME, GATES AND HIS INVESTIGATORS STARTED TRYING TO ~~PIECE~~ PIECE TOGETHER OTHER SHREDS OF INFORMATION THAT MAY, OR MAY NOT HAVE SOME BEARING. THERE WAS A DISTURBANCE EARLIER IN THE EVENING AT ~~THE~~ 25th & SEWARD. DID THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS EXPLOSION? THERE HAD BEEN (SO THE POLICE SAY) RAPE COMPLAINTS IN THE AREA. HAD ^{THEY} ~~BEEN~~ BEEN PART OF A CONTINUING "SET up" PROCEDURE TO MAKE THE COPS LESS WARY WHEN THEY CAME IN? A NEIGHBOR NEARBY HAD SEVERAL DOGS. DID THEY BARK? COULD THEY GIVE ANY CLUE AS TO WHEN THE BOMB MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED? ~~THEY DOG BARKED WHEN THE BOMB WAS PLANTED~~
~~ALL THIS WAS BEING DONE AT THE SAME TIME~~

THE INVESTIGATORS STARTED TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HOUSE ITSELF: WHO OWNED IT? HOW LONG WAS IT VACANT? WHY WASN'T IT SECURED?

THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS CAME DURING THE DAY MONDAY, AND REVEALED A MOST INTERESTING SET OF FACTS. THE HOUSE WAS OWNED BY MR. AND MRS. ALVIN GOODWIN SR., THE PARENTS OF AL GOODWIN, FEDERAL LIASON MAN FOR MAYOR LEAHY. THE GOODWINS HAVE A POOR TRACK RECORD. IT WAS EARLIER THIS

MONTH THAT A MURDERER DUMPED HIS PREY IN THE BASEMENT OF THEIR NEW HOME. ~~THE~~ VICTIM WAS AN EX-COP. ~~SO~~, TWICE IN SEVEN MONTHS THE ~~GOODWINS~~ HAD THEIR PROPERTY GRACED WITH ~~HAVE FOUND STILL POLICEMEN~~ POLICE-RELATED ~~STREETS~~ ^{corpses}. ~~THE~~ THE HOUSE AT 2867 ~~OHIO~~ HAD BEEN VACANT FOR ABOUT A YEAR, AND WAS, IN THE PARLANCCE OF THE ~~P~~ERMITS AND ~~I~~NSPECTION ~~D~~IVISION, "OPEN, VACANT, AND VANDALIZED". APPARENTLY ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY-RATED BLACKS IN THE ~~MAYOR'S~~ ~~C~~ABINET COULDN'T FIND THE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF HIS OWN, OR HIS PARENTS' BACK YERD.

~~B~~UT ASIDE FROM ^{the} ~~G~~OODWINS' NEGLECT, THERE'S A ~~STORY~~ STORY HERE OF OFFICIAL INDIFFERENCE. MRS. ROSCOE ~~V~~AUGHN CAN TELL HOW SHE CALLED CITY ~~H~~ALL TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE VACANT HOUSE NEXT DOOR. ~~THEY~~ REFERRED HER TO THE ~~C~~OUNTY ~~H~~EALTH ~~D~~EPARTMENT. ~~THEY~~ REFERRED HER TO ~~L~~ELEGAL ~~A~~ID, WHO TOLD HER TO GET HER OWN LAWYER, TO ~~FORCE A CLEAN-UP OF THE PLACE.~~ ~~WHEN~~ THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD QUESTIONED THE OFFICIALS OF THE VARIOUS AGENCIES INVOLVED, THEY ALL RESPONDED WITH A SHRUG, AND LAMELY SAID THAT NO RECORDS WERE KEPT OF MRS. ~~V~~AUGHN'S COMPLAINTS.

SUCH BUREAUCRATIC STUPIDITY WAS NOT IN ~~G~~LEN ~~G~~ATES' MIND, HOWEVER, AS THE RAIN STOPPED BRIEFLY AND THE SUN CAME UP ~~M~~ONDAY MORNING. ~~T~~HE IN-

VESTIGATORS WERE BY THAT TIME BOLSTERED BY THE PRESEN^C~~CE~~ OF A VERITABLE HORDE OF **F-B-I** MEN, **T**REASURY **D**EPARTMENT INSPECTORS, STATE AND LOCAL FIRE INVESTIGATORS,, ~~AND~~ EVEN A HANDFUL OF INVESTIGATORS FROM THE **S**TATE **P**ATROL, **K**INDLY OFFERED BY **G**OVERNOR **T**IEMANN, WHO COULDN'T PASS UP A CHANCE TO GET A LITTLE PUBLICITY ON THE WHOLE DEAL.

WHEN THE RAIN PAUSED, AND THERE WAS ENOUGH LIGHT, THE HORDE DROPPED TO THEIR HANDS AND KNEES, AND BEGAN TO SIFT THRU THE RUBBLE THAT ONCE WAS 2867 **O**HIO. IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE JUST EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR, BECAUSE THE BACK-TRACKING THAT TAKES PLACE IN SUCH AN INVESTIGATION IS RELATIVELY COMPLEX, AND CALLS NOT ONLY FOR ~~SOME~~ SOME HIGHLY INTUITIVE DEDUCTION, ~~BUT~~ BUT FOR SOME HIGHLY REFINED SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS AS WELL. THAT IS TO SAY, THEY COULD MAKE GUESSES ABOUT ~~THE~~ "WHODUNIT", BUT THEY HAD TO KNOW PRECISELY WHAT WAS DONE. ~~THE~~

THE COPS HAD TO TRY ~~TO~~ ^{TO} DETERMINE SUBSTANCE ~~THAT~~ ~~WHICH~~ WHICH EXPLODED, BUT EVEN MORE INPORTANT, THAT INSTRUMENT WHICH ^{TRIGGERED} ~~THE~~ THE BLAST. **F**ROM THERE, THEY WOULD TRY TO FIND THAT PERSON WHO PLACED THE DEVICE AT THE SCENE.

SO, FOR MOST OF **M**ONDAY THE JOB WAS SIMPLY TO SIFT THE DEBRIS AND FIND THOSE PIECES THAT MIGHT BE SPLOTCHED WITH BURNT EXPLOSIVE, THOSE CHUNKS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE SUITCASE, AND THOSE LITTLE SCRAPS OF METAL

THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE DETONATING DEVICE. **A**LL THESE HAD TO BE CHARTED, LABELED, THEIR POSITION IN RELATION TO THE SUITCASE DETERMINED.

THE PATTERN OF THE BLAST HAD TO BE WORKED OUT, THE MAGNITUDE OF ITS DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OUTLINED. **P**ARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN ALL THIS WAS THE MECHANISM AND THE EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCE, BECAUSE THESE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE LINKED TO ~~EARLIER EXPLOSIONS, ONES THAT THE~~ ~~BE LINKED TO~~ ~~EARLIER EXPLOSIONS, ONES THAT THE~~ COPS ALREADY ~~KNEW~~ SOMETHING ABOUT.

OBVIOUSLY, SUCH EXAMINATION WAS BEYOND THE ~~MEAGER~~ ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE **O**MAHA **P**OLICE, SO EVERYTHING WAS GATHERED UP IN PLASTIC BAGS, AND READIED FOR SHIPMENT TO **F-B-I** LABS IN **W**ASHINGTON, A SHIPMENT THAT TOOK OFF **T**UESDAY, THE 18th OF **A**UGUST.

IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT THE ONLY INVESTIGATION WAS THE ONE AT THE SCENE. **J**UST AS THIS "SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS" WAS CRITICAL, SO TOO WAS ~~THE~~ "INTUITION", AND THE **O**MAHA **P**OLICE INVESTIGATORS IMMEDIATELY SET OUT ~~UP THOSE ALLEYS THEY~~ ~~THOUGHT MIGHT LEAD TO THE BOMBERS.~~ **I**T WAS IN THIS PHASE OF THE INQUIRY THAT WE SEE THE FIRST INDICATIONS OF THAT TERRIBLE BUT PREDICTABLE PATTERN. **T**HE POLICE KEEP TABS ON EVERYBODY IN THIS TOWN, BUT PARTICULARLY ON THE **N**EAR **N**ORTH **S**IDE. **T**HERE ARE INFORMERS, THERE ARE KNOWN CRIMINALS WHOM THE COPS CAN'T CONVICT, AND THERE ARE SIMPLE PEOPLE WHOM THE POLICE THINK MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING. **A**LL OF THESE

WERE SOUGHT OUT AND INTERROGATED, HAULED IN TO THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE POLICE STATION, AND "PUT ON THE GRILLE". I INNOCENT OR NOT, KNOWING OR UNKNOWNING, THEY WERE TREATED TO A SHOCKING BLAST OF INTIMIDATION, AND SLAPPED WITH A BROAD PLANK OF FEAR. T THAT THE POLICE SHOULD INVESTIGATE IS -IN FACT - TO BE DEMANDED; THAT THE OMAHA POLICE SHOULD APPROACH THE DEATH OF A FELLOW WITH ANGER IS TO BE EXPECTED; THAT SUCH HOSTILITY AND BRUTALITY SHOULD BE EXERTED BY PUBLIC SERVANTS IS NEITHER WARRANTED NOR JUSTIFIABLE.

WHAT WAS SEEN THROUGHOUT MONDAY, THE 12th OF AUGUST, IS A CANNOT ONE LOGICALLY SERIES OF HASTY ARRESTS AND LENGTHY INTERROGATIONS. EXPECT THE POLICE TO NOT INTERROGATE PEOPLE. THE NEED FOR DATA WAS CRITICAL, AND POLITICAL AND INTERNAL PRESSURE ASIDE, FROM A PURELY INVESTIGATIVE POINT OF VIEW, THE POLICE while HAD TO GET ON THE CASE THE DETAILS WERE HOT. BT TIME AND AGAIN THAT MONDAY, AND FOR DAYS THEREAFTER, PEOPLE WOULD TELL STORIES OF BEING CALLED OVER TO A POLICE CAR, PLACED UNDER ARREST, AND TAKEN IN FOR LITTLE MORE THAN A CURSORY INTERROGATION. ONE DETECTIVE CHUCKLED TO REPORTERS THAT MONDAY, SAYING, "YEAH, WE'LL HAUL EVERY ONE OF 'EM IN HERE UNTIL WE GET THE ONE WHO DID IT". THE POLICE WENT ON A FISHING EXPEDITION, HOPING THAT A FINE ENOUGH NET, SPREAD OVER

A LARGE ENOUGH AREA, WHO SOONER OR LATER CATCH SOMEBODY. ~~WHETHER~~
 THE EARLY STAGES OF THE ~~POLICE~~ INVESTIGATION COULD BE CALLED "HYSTERIA",
 WHETHER THE ~~POLICE~~ WERE LITERALLY BLINDED BY ANGER, THESE QUESTIONS
 REALLY DON'T NEED ~~to be Raised.~~

~~THE~~ THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE WHOLE SITUATION BECAME EVIDENT WHEN
 GLENN GATES TOOK AN UNEXPECTED AND ~~UNPRECEDENTED~~ ^{unprecedented} MOVE MONDAY MORNING:
 HE BARRED THE FOURTH FLOOR OF ~~CENTRAL~~ ^{Police} HEADQUARTERS TO NEWSMEN. ~~AS~~ YOU
 GET OFF THE ELEVATOR ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, THERE IS A SMALL LOBBY WITH
 TWO RECEPTIONISTS' DESKS, ONE TO THE NORTH, AND ONE TO THE SOUTH. ~~THE~~
 THE ONE TO THE NORTH IS USUALLY EMPTY, BUT THE ONE TO
 THE SOUTH IS THE RECEPTIONIST FOR THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU,
 AND IS USUALLY MANNED BY A POLICE INTERN. REPORTERS COULD GO NO FURTHER
 THAN THIS DESK. ~~BUT~~ BUT THAT WASN'T ALL. THAT INTERN USUALLY ACTS
 AS THE DISPATCHER FOR C-I-B CARS, AND BEHIND HIM IS A MOTOROLA RADIO
 CONSOLE. FROM MONDAY ON, THE INTERN USED ONLY EARPHONES, ~~AND TURNED DOWN~~
 THE SPEAKER ON THE RADIO, SO THAT NO ONE IN THE LOBBY COULD MONITOR THE
 DETECTIVES' CONVERSATIONS. AS THE WORLD-HERALD PUT IT, THE "LID WAS
 CLAMPED DOWN" ON THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU.

AND INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THE WORLD-HERALD SPECIFICALLY ~~cites~~

DEPUTY CHIEF GLENN GATES AS BEING THE ONE WHO CLAMPS DOWN THAT LID.
 INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM, CHIEF ANDERSON DID NOT RETURN FROM SEATTLE
 UNTIL WEDNESDAY, THE 19th. AND EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE, MAYOR LEAHY LEFT
 TOWN WITH HIS FAMILY ON TUESDAY, THE 18th. NOT ONLY WAS GLENN GATES
 FAST BECOMING THE ONLY ONE
 ON THE HOT SPOT, HE WAS ~~REMAINED ON THE~~ ON THE HOT SPOT. [THE
 DEPARTURE
 REASONS GIVEN FOR THE ~~REASON~~ AND FOR THE LATE RETURN ARE THE USUAL:
 PREVIOUS PLANS, UNEXPECTED DELAYS, ETC...ETC... THE FACT ~~REMAINS~~ REMAINS
 THAT AT A HIGHLY CRITICAL TIME BOTH THE MAYOR AND THE POLICE CHIEF WERE
 ABSENT FROM THE CITY. [WHILE THE PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, THE ACTING CHIEF
 (WATER DEVERE), AND GATES HIMSELF WERE ALL HIGHLY QUALIFIED, IT NONETHE-
 LESS POSES SOME SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF ACCOUNTABILITY ON THE PART OF THE
 MAYOR, AND SOME SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF LEADERSHIP, ON THE PART OF THE
 CHIEF, TO BOTH BE AWAY WHEN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE MINARD DEATH WAS
 REALLY GETTING STARTED. IT RATHER GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT ANY CALMING
 INFLUENCE THESE TWO MIGHT HAVE EXERTED WAS SIMPLY LOST.

[AT ANY RATE, IT LEFT GLENN GATES RUNNING THE WHOLE SHOW, AND
 AS MENTIONED ^{and} HE PULLED THE CURTAINS SO ONLY THE STAGEHANDS WOULD KNOW FOR
 SURE. WHAT EVEN THEY KNEW IS QUESTIONABLE, FOR BY WEDNESDAY GATES HAD
 ISSUED A PUBLIC PLEA FOR INFORMATION IN THE CASE. [HIS MEN DID REEL IN

A LOT OF PEOPLE, BUT WHETHER THAT ~~WAS~~ CATCH PRODUCED ANYTHING WON'T BE KNOWN UNTIL THE TRAIL STARTS. **IT** IS CERTAIN THAT A FURIOUS INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERWAY, AND THAT THE SCREW WERE PUT TO AT LEAST A COUPLE OF PEOPLE TO REVEAL WHAT THE **N-G-C-F** WAS DOING THAT EVENING.

[F] FROM **D** DEPUTY **C** CHIEF **G** GLENN **G** GATES, THE WORD WAS SIMPLY THAT SOME PARTIES WERE BEING INTERVIEWED, AND THAT "SOME OFFICERS WERE WORKING PAST THEIR NORMAL SHIFTS" ON THE CASE.

SPACE

[T] THAT STATEMENT FROM **G** GATES IS IMPORTANT, BECAUSE OUR **S** STORY NOW TURNS ONCE AGAIN TO THE **U** UNIFORM **P** POLICEMEN, TO THE BULK OF THE FORCE, AND THEIR SIMMERING REACTION TO THE DEATH OF ONE OF THEIR OWN. ~~THEY WERE~~

[TP F] FIRST THERE WAS THE REACTION FROM THE "OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN" FOR THE "MAN-ON-THE-BEAT". **P** PATROLMAN **R** ROBERT **G** GALLAGHER, **P** PRESIDENT OF THE **P** POLICE **U** UNION, SAID THAT HE WOULD "PRESS STRONGLY" FOR A REVISION OF PROCEDURES* IN EMERGENCY CASES. **S** SAID **G** GALLAGHER: "WE'LL HAVE TO TREAT EVERY CALL LIKE DYNAMITE".

[G] GALLAGHER'S REMARKS WERE SUPERFLUOUS, BECAUSE THAT WAS ALREADY BEING DONE. **F** FROM THE 17th UNTIL TODAY, THE POLICE DISPATCHERS TELL A CRUISER THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE CALL TO THE POLICE.

I IF THE NAME ISN'T GIVEN, THE **CRUISER OFFICERS** ~~ARE~~ ARE SO NOTIFIED, AND ~~THEY~~ TOLD TO

"USE CAUTION". CALLS ARE VERIFIED, BY RETURNING A CALL TO A CERTAIN LOCATION AND MAKING SURE THEY REALLY DID CALL THE COPS. ~~IF~~ ^{IS} THERE ANY QUESTION ~~AS~~ AS TO THE VALIDITY OF A CALL FOR THE POLICE, THE CALL ~~IS~~ ^{HAVE} LOCKED IN ON THE "911" SWITCHBOARD. IN SHORT, THE CATTLE ~~WAS~~ ESCAPED FROM THE BARN, SO THE GATE ~~WAS~~ ^{IS} LOCKED SECURELY. AND OF COURSE, THAT ~~IS~~ ^{IS} TRUE MOST NOTABLY FOR CALLS THAT ~~COME FROM THE BARN~~ COME FROM THE ~~N~~ ^{NEAR} NORTH ~~SIDE~~ ^{SIDE}.

BUT GALLAGHER HAD TO SAY SOMETHING, THE POLICE UNION HAD TO
LOOK LIKE IT WAS DOING SOMETHING, SO HE ASKED FOR "PROCEDURAL CHANGES".
AND THE POLITICS WITHIN THE DIVISION CONTINUED, BECAUSE WHEN CHIEF
ANDERSON FINALLY RETURNED TO OMAHA, HIS FIRST REMARKS CONCERNED EXACTLY
THAT TOPIC. REFERRING TO PROCEDURES AT THE SCENE OF AN INCIDENT,
ANDERSON RIPPED OFF THE TYPICALLY WISE-ASS STATEMENT THAT "A REVIEW.....
HASN'T PRODUCED ANY BRILLIANT, EASY SOLUTIONS. WE STILL HAVE TO RELY
ON THE STREET SENSE OF THE OFFICERS." AS ONE CRUISER PATROLMAN LATER SAID:
"THANKS, DICK".

PUTTING ASIDE THE PETTY BICKERING, HOWEVER, THERE WAS A DIS-
CERNIBLE MOOD GRIPPING THE POLICE FORCE ON MONDAY THE 17th, A MOOD THAT
WAS IN ITSELF POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE, AND ONE THAT COMMAND OFFICERS WERE
QUITE OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT TO BUCK. ~~S~~A CTING CHIEF WALTER DEVERE COMMENTED:

"WE'LL KEEP DIGGING ON THIS ONE UNTIL HELL FREEZES OVER". CAPTAIN

WILLIAM PATTAVINA: "WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS WAS BOUND AND DETERMINED

TO GET A POLICEMAN". DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY ARTHUR O'LEARY: "THE MEN

ARE UNDERSTANDABLY A LITTLE RAW". PATROLMAN TOAY, INJURED IN THE BLAST:

"WE GO IN THERE TO HELP AND THE BUILDING BLOWS UP. ISN'T THAT SOMETHING".

AND VERY SIMPLY FROM STATE SENATOR BILL BLOOM, A FORMER COP: "THE MEN

ARE SADDENED AND ANGRY".

ON THE AFTERNOON OF MONDAY THE 17th, PARTICULARLY THAT NIGHT, AND

FOR AT LEAST A WEEK AFTER THE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE, THE OMAHA POLICE

MAINTAINED AN ALMOST AWESOME DEGREE OF ANGER ~~AND VIOLENCE AGAINST~~

BLACKS. IT ISN'T HARD TO SEE THEIR SIDE, IN FACT,

~~WHICH TO DESCRIBE IT, FOR IT WAS~~

ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE

ALMOST BLIND AND TOTALLY INSENSITIVE NOT TO. THE LOSS OF A COMRADE IS

A TRAUMATIC THING. AND THAT'S REALLY ALL THAT CAN BE SAID.

BUT THE FORM OF THAT ANGER WAS REVENGE, AND IT WAS EXERCISED

IN THE MOST BLATANT AND INDISCRIMINATE FASHION. AS IN SO MANY CASES

OF RACE CONFLICT IN AMERICA TODAY, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND,

YET IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDONE, THE REACTIONS OF THE OMAHA POLICE TO THE

DEATH OF OFFICER MINARD.

YET THEIR ACTIONS DO HAVE A PARALLEL. IN 1919, WHEN A BLACK

MAN WAS DRAGGED FROM THE **C**OUTNY **J**AIL AND LYNCHED FOR ALLEGEDLY RAPING A WHITE WOMAN, THE POLICE ARBITRARILY DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO REMOVE ANY POTENTIAL "TROUBLEMAKERS". **S**o, THE ANGER AND FRUSTRATION OF THE THE WHITE COMMUNITY IN **1919** WAS **T**AKEN OUT ON THE **B**LACK COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, BY GRABBING LARGE NUMBERS OF MEN OFF THE STREETS, PACKING THEM IN **U**ION **P**ACIFIC BOXCARS, AND HAULING THEM OUT OF TOWN. (**T**HE **N**EBRASKA **H**ISTORICAL **S**OCIETY CAN PROVIDE ~~THESE~~ NEWSPAPERS OF THE TIME DESCRIBING THE WHOLE THING).

IN MUCH THE SAME WAY, FIFTY YEARS LATER, THE **O**MAHA POLICE PERFORMED A SWEEP OF THE GHETTO. THE ACTION BEGAN **M**ONDAY AFTERNOON, WITH SEVERAL ARRESTS FOR LOITERING, VAGRANCY, AND PUBLIC DRUNKENESS. **A**T ABOUT 4 P.M. SOME BLACK KIDS YELLED AT A CRUISER CAR. **T**HEIR FATHER, A MINISTER, CAME OUT OF HIS HOUSE. **W**HAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT IS STILL A MATTER OF DISCUSSION, BUT IT **E**NDED UP WITH THE FATHER IN JAIL, ~~LATER~~ **L**ATER FILING OF A FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST ONE OF THE COPS. **A**S NIGHT FELL, THE POLICE MOVED WITH RESOLVE. **A**RRESTS IN THE **N**EAR **N**ORTH **S**IDE **AVERAGE** ~~WENT~~ OUT TO SEVEN OR EIGHT A NIGHT. **M**ONDAY THE 17th OF **A**UGUST, THEY SHOT UP **to twenty-five.** **C**RUISER UNITS LITERALLY MOVED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE **N**ORTH **S**IDE AND THE **C**ITY **J**AIL, HAULING THEM IN. **A**LL THAT WAS LACKING

WERE THE BOXCARS.

THE "VIOLATIONS" WERE MISDEMEANORS, INCLUDING NOW SUSPICION OF LOITERING, ~~THE~~ DISORDERLY CONDUCT, OR OBSTRUCTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW, CERTAINLY VAGUE CHARGES AT BEST.

ARRRESTS WERE MADE TO HARASS AND INTIMIDATE, AND ~~THE~~ OFFICERS FREELY ADMITTED AMONG THEMSELVES AND TO INQUIRERS THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY WAS "TO PUT THEM ^(BLACKS) IN THEIR PLACE". ADDDED TO THIS WAS THE INVESTIGATION INTO ^{so that} THE BOMBING ITSELF, IN SHORT ORDER ~~ON~~ ^{MONDAY} NIGHT, THE STREETS ON THE ~~NEAR~~ ^NORTH ^SIDE WERE CLEARED, PEOPLE AFRAID TO VENTURE OUT FOR FEAR OF BEATINGS ^{OR} ~~THE~~ ARRESTS. IT WAS, SAID ONE MAN BITTERLY, A "REIGN OF TERROR".

AND IT WAS NOT JUST ~~M~~ MONDAY NIGHT. POLICE CONTINUED TO ARREST PEOPLE ~~THROUGHOUT THE WEEK~~, WITH A TAPERING OFF AS THE WEEK DREW TO A CLOSE. THE SITUATION AMONG ~~THE~~ BLACKS GREW SO TENSE THAT THE THEN-NEWLY-APPOINTED HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR, RODER SAYERS, FELT COMPELLED TO CALL ~~THE~~ A PRESS CONFERENCE TO "ASK FOR COOL". DIRECTING HIS REMARKS TO BOTH POLICE AND BLACKS, HE SOMEWHAT LUDICROUSLY ASKED PEOPLE "NOT TO OVERREACT". THERE ARE MANY WHO SAY THAT SAYERS LOST MUCH OF HIS CREDIBILITY

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ IN FACT, SAYERS WAS NEW ON THE JOB, WAS FACED WITH A CRISIS, AND SIMPLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL ELSE TO DO.

ON THE STREET, PEOPLE BECAME WITHDRAWN. WHEN ASKED WHY THE BLACK COMMUNITY DIDN'T TAKE ON AFTER THE COPS, ONE FELLOW NOTED SIMPLY THAT THE COPS WERE SO HOT THAT THEY'D BLOW OFF A BROTHER AS SOON AS LOOK AT HIM. THE FEAR ON THE NEAR NORTH SIDE WAS PERVASIVE.

AND MY GOD, IS BITTERNESS ON THE STREET SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND
AFTER A WEEK LIKE THAT OF THE 17 THRU THE 22nd OF AUGUST? COULD WE
PICTURE SUCH A SYSTEMATIC TERRORISM ANYWHERE ELSE IN OMAHA? OF COURSE
NOT, BECAUSE SO LITTLE REGARD IS PAID TO THE GHETTO IN THIS TOWN THAT
NO ENOUGH PEOPLE CARE TO CRY OUT WHEN TRAVESTIES ARE COMMITTED.

AND IT WAS SO OBVIOUS. THE WORLD HERALD EVEN CARRIED ARTICLES
DESCRIBING THE INCREASE IN ARREST RATES, TELLING OF SAYER'S PLEA, AND
QUOTING POLICE OFFICERS WHO SAID THE WHOLE THING WASN'T SYSTEMATIC.

~~Then~~ FOR HYPOCRISY, NONE CAN MATCH THE HERALD. ~~THAT SHALLOW PAPER~~ IN
~~mmmm~~ Omaha's only daily paper

A GALLING DISPLAY OF INSENSITIVITY AND LACK OF PERCEPTION, V CARRIED AN

ARTICLE ON AUGUST 18th TELLING OF THE INCREASENG ARRESTS ON THE NEAR NORTH

SIDE. IN THAT SAME ISSUE, THE WORLD HERALD EDITORIALY STATED THAT:
 "HE (MINARD) WAS THE VICTIM OF MANY THOUGHTLESS PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALLOWED
 HATRED OF THE POLICE TO BECOME A NATIONAL SYNDROME". THIS WHILE A
 [REDACTED] PERIOD OF REPRESSION WAS GOING ON RIGHT WITHIN
 THIS CITY [REDACTED]. AND THEN, JUST TWO DAYS LATER, THE HERALD
 turned [REDACTED] RIGHT AROUND, [REDACTED] AND STATED: "NOW, IN THE WAKE OF THE
 MINARD MURDER, WE HAVE SPECIAL NEED TO BE UNDERSTANDING, AND TO RISE
 ABOVE FEELINGS OF ANGER AND FRUSTRATION. WE HAVE TO PICK UP THE
 PIECES OF SHATTERED CONFIDENCE AND WORK HARDER TO GET ALONG WITH ONE
 ANOTHER". [REDACTED]

IT IS TRUE THAT MINARD WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED, AND IT IS TRUE
 THAT POLICE ARE NOT GENRALLY "RESPECTED" ON THE NEAR NORTH SIDE. JUST
 ABOUT ANYONE CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THE POLICE FELT -- AS HUMAN BEINGS -- AT
 THE DEATH OF MINARD. BUT THE OVERREACTION OF THE POLICE, THE ARRESTS,
 THE INTIMINDATION, WERE SO AWESOMELY UNWARRANTED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT
 TO ADEQUATELY CATALOGUE THE REASONS WHY. [REDACTED]

no new para.

[REDACTED], MINARD'S DEATH STANDS AS A TRAJEDYA AND A STUPIDITY.

But,

LIKEWISE DO THE ACTIONS OF THE OMAHA POLICE IN RESPONSE [REDACTED]

No New Paragraph

NEITHER OCCURENCE IS JUSTIFIABLE, [REDACTED]

BUT SINCE THE LATTER INCLUDES THE INTIMIDATION OF THOUSANDS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IT LINGERS FOREMOST IN THE MINDS OF THOSE WHO SUFFER TODAY.

[B]UT THERE IS MORE HERE THAN JUST A MURDER, THE CROSS-BRUTALITY FOLLOWING IT, OR THE RESULTANT TENSION. THERE IS THE AWESOME FIGURE OF ^{superiors} WHO LOST COMMAND OF THEIR MEN. THE CHILLING NOTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS CHECK EMOTIONS. WHO WERE NOT IN THE CITY TO [REDACTED] AND THE ALMOST UNFORGIVEABLE TURNING

AWAY ^{BY} THE THE PRESS AND THE WHITE COMMUNITY ^{FROM} ~~BY~~ WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

[T]HIS ARTICLE HAS DESCRIBED SOME OF THE PRESSURES WITHIN THE HIGHLY-POLITICAL ^OMAHA ^POLICE ^DIVISION. WHEN "PATROLMAN ^POWER" BECAME TOO GREAT, THE UPPER ECHELONS OF COMMAND, FROM THE ^DEPUTY ^CHIEF TO THE DUTY ^CAPTAINS, WILLINGLY TURNED THEIR BACKS ON THE ACTIVITY IN THE STREET.

THE UNIFORM POLICE WERE ALLOWED TO RUN RAMPANT, THEIR ACTIONS WERE NOT CHECKED. LIKE CHICAGO IN ~~19~~ '68, THE MEN WERE ON THEIR ~~OWN~~ OWN, AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT. THE POLICE LET GRIEF AND ANGER GET THE BETTER OF THEM.

[B]UT PERHAPS WORSE THAN THAT IS ^{the} ^{murder} CHIEF WHO SUFFERS THE ~~LOSS~~ OF ONE OF HIS MEN, AND CAN'T RETURN FROM HIS VACATION EARLY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON. ^OR THE ^MAYOR WHO IS AWARE OF HOW THE AVERAGE COPS FEEL, WHO KNOWS THAT SUCH TERRORISM HAS TAKEN PLACE, YET FEELS FREE TO PACK UP HIS

FAMILY AND LEAVE

TOWN, MISSING THE FUNERAL OF THAT COP AND ABROGATING HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE [REDACTED] BLACK COMMUNITY. "WHEN WE NEEDED THEM THE MOST, THEY WERE NOT WITH US. [REDACTED]

BUT IF THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS WRONGED, SO TOO DID THE COMMUNITY,
BECAUSE NO ONE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN "NIGGERTOWN."
NO ONE SAID, "WELL, LETS MAKE SURE ~~THE~~ THINGS DON'T GET WORSE NOW". BECAUSE
THE PRESS IN THIS COMMUNITY, EACH NEWSPAPER, RADIO, AND TELEVISION STATION,
SAW THAT THE REACTION OF THE POLICE WAS "WAY OUT OF HAND", AND BECAUSE
NO ONE MOVED TO STOP IT. ALL THE PLATITUDES, ALL THE LIBERAL PHRASES,
ALL THE CALLS TO REASON, ALL THE PLEAS FOR CONCERN, WERE ALL WASHED
HANDLY AWAY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN OMAHA? THE ANSWER IS BOTH SIMPLE AND COMPLEX. MINARD'S DEATH WAS INDEED TRAUMATIC. NO ONE KNEW REALLY HOW TO RESPOND. AND ALL FELT SYMPATHY FOR THE POLICE IN THAT THEY HAD BEEN THE OBJECT OF "REVOLUTIONARIES". THE WHOLE THING WAS FAR TOO TOUCHY TO MESS AROUND WITH, SO WAS BETTER LEFT ALONE. AND IT WAS, AND WHITE MEN IGNORED WHAT WAS GOING ON RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM, AND THE PRESSURE BUILT UP A WHOLE LOT MORE.

LSO WE CONCLUDE HERE, THE INVESTIGATION INTO MIN RD'S DEATH

WELL UNDERWAY, THE ^PPOLICE HAVING SCOURGED THE BLACK COMMUNITY FOR IT.

AHEAD LIES THE STAMPEDE OF ARRESTS, THE LEGAL DICKERING, AND THE TRIAL.

BUT FIRST, WE MUST BURY ^{Larry}MINARD, AND THAT WE SHALL DO IN THE NEXT ARTICLE.